



**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts**

**Release**

Subject: American Opinion Magazine

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

## Gen. Groves Defends Birch Society as 'Sound Movement'

NEW BEDFORD, (AP)—Retired Army Lt. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, formerly connected with the Manhattan Project, last night defended the militantly conservative John Birch Society as "fundamentally sound and

beneficial movement."

The society has come under criticism in Congress and elsewhere for statements by its founder and president, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass.

"Anyone who stands for fun-

damental Americanism today, who believes in what our fore-fathers stood for, is subject to attack and suspicion," Groves said at a science fair awards "Anyone not in favor of constant giveaway by the govern-

ment, increasing the national debt, is attacked . . . and anyone in this position has to be super careful or if he slips he is ruined. On the other hand, a Liberal can make all kinds of mistakes," he said.

Naming the Birch Society, Groves said: "Because of one statement which was—or was not made—a fundamentally sound and hurt."

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Chris Ian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
**X** Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 4-7-61  
Edition: Sunrise  
Author:  
Editor: James P. Murphy  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: 100  
Page: 25  
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-32899\*)

DATE: 4/7/61

FROM : [redacted] Liaison

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SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

[redacted]  
and employed [redacted] at Garland Junior College, 409 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, telephonically contacted this office on 4/5/61 to inquire about the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. She was informed by the writer as to Bureau policy regarding inquiries of this type.

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She advised that she has received literature from this organization, through a friend whom she declined to identify. She thought it was a fine organization until she started to read some of their literature and read of its work in the local newspapers.

She advised that she has a copy of "Welch's Blue Book" and also some other material of this organization and that she would send it into this office for our information.

Indices negative re [redacted]

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DATE 11/15/03 BY AUC 60290 BCC/DCG/gmw

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100- )  
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (62-11243)  
SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
IS - X

Mrs. ALICE WIDENER, 829 Park Avenue, New York, New York, discussed the information contained herein with SA ALESIO SAVIOLA on 4/7/61:

Mrs. WIDENER, who is well known to the Bureau, is publisher of the bi-monthly magazine, "U.S.A.," which contains a great deal of political comment of a very controversial nature.

"The New Bedford Standard-Times" (New Bedford, Mass.), 4/4/61, p. 10, under the by-line "Standard-Times Staff Writer," reported that "members of the John Birch Society (JBS) and others were told last night that the views of some of our scientists, if adopted, would mean surrender to international Soviet Communism." The article then set out comments of a speaker. That was the first paragraph of the article. In the fifth paragraph, the article explained that "Mrs. WIDENER spoke before some 100 persons at the American Institute (AI), 64 Sigourney St., Jamaica Plain." The article added that the discussion was sponsored by the AI and had been recommended by the JBS to its

5 - Bureau (RM)  
① - Boston (RM)  
1 - NY 62-11243 (413)

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membership. The next paragraph added that WELCH, the head of the JBS, was not present for the talk and that the JBS was not discussed by Mrs. WIDENER.

Mrs. WIDENER was very much upset by the article because she said it was a deliberate lie and a plot on the part of someone to destroy her and the magazine, "U.S.A.," and to discredit the fight against communism. She also felt that the article was an attempt to make it appear that she supported the JBS and/or to force her to take a position on that subject.

Mrs. WIDENER explained that she had been invited to speak before the AI by the [redacted]

[redacted] at the suggestion of HERBERT PHILBRICK, AI President. She stated that her topic was to be "The No. One Issue - Survival." While working out the arrangements for the talk, Mrs. WIDENER and [redacted] agreed that the JBS would not be discussed.

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Mrs. WIDENER arrived at the hall where she was to speak somewhat tardy because of traffic congestion. As she entered the hall, [redacted] the affair, was explaining to the audience that Mrs. WIDENER would not discuss the JBS.

Mrs. WIDENER, in her talk, did not mention the JBS. During the question and answer period which followed her talk, she was asked if the JBS would become the subject of a Senate investigation. The chairman immediately ruled the question out of order. However, Mrs. WIDENER remarked that since she was neither a Senator nor a member of the JBS, she was in no position to answer the question.

As the affair ended, one of the audience introduced himself to Mrs. WIDENER as [redacted] of the "New Bedford Standard-Times."

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NY 62-11243

Mrs. WIDENER wanted the Bureau to be informed that:

- 1) She had been invited to speak at this affair by the AI at the suggestion of its president, HERBERT PHILBRICK.
- 2) She did not mention the JBS during her talk.
- 3) She made it clear that she was not a member of the JBS.
- 4) Some time ago, she declined an invitation to write for "American Opinion," which is published by the JBS.

Mrs. WIDENER solicited suggestions as to whether she should do anything to correct the implication made by the article that she was a member of the JBS. She was politely informed that the Bureau could not advise her in this matter. After talking for some time, Mrs. WIDENER said she would call [redacted] of the "Standard-Times", and discuss this with him.

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Mrs. WIDENER called later to report that she had discussed the matter with [redacted]. He informed her that he was the Massachusetts organizer of the JBS and that he had sent out letters to members of the JBS recommending that they might want to hear her speak. [redacted] promised to publish a blurb to explain that she was not a member of the JBS and that she had spoken at a meeting sponsored by the AI at the invitation of the AI.

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This is being furnished to the Bureau as it is possible that Mrs. WIDENER may at some future date contact the Bureau and refer to the information set out herein.

A copy is being forwarded to Boston, inasmuch as it contains information regarding personalities and activities in that area.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC BOSTON 100-  
Att: SUPV [redacted]

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DATE: 4/5/61

FROM : SA PAUL A. KEANE

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
Portsmouth NH Chapter

[redacted]  
On the above date [redacted] was interviewed at the Portsmouth RA at her request. She stated that she [redacted] Portsmouth NH Chapter of the John Birch Society, and she wished to advised this office that [redacted]

[redacted]  
She stated this chapter has 10 members, all of them women, and residents of Portsmouth. She said the chapter was organized in Sept 1959 and [redacted]. She said she is a loyal American, completely dedicated to anit-communism, and she feels this organization is a bulwark to Communism. She also stated she is a [redacted]

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[redacted] stated that she received pamphlets and publications by mail from the Society head quarters in Belmont, Mass. and on some occasions a coordinator from the hqs comes to Portsmouth and gives discussions on the Society and it's activities. [redacted] said she does not know of any other chapters of this organization in the Southeast NH area. She stated that she does not wish to furnish the names of the other members of the chapter at this time. It was her desire that she furnish the above information in the event that any investigation of the society is made at some future date.

[redacted] was advised that the FBI Has not investigated the J.Birch Society at any time and is only interested ir organizations of a subversive and anti-American nature. She was told that the information concerning this organization in Portsmouth which she has available should be furnished to the proper authorities in the event that an investigation is instituted.

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[Signature]

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BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

# Cardinal Cushing Endorses Welch

An unqualified endorsement of Robert Welch of Belmont, founder of the controversial John Birch Society which is dedicated to the extermination of Communism, was voiced last night by Richard Cardinal Cushing.

Speaking at a dinner attended by 300 business and professional men at St. Anselm College, North Easton, the prelate said Welch, "whom I have known for many years, should be supported as a dedicated foe of Communism. Anyone who is fighting Com-

munism today on a top level and who knows the methods and teaching of Communism is going to suffer," the Cardinal said. It was an obvious reference to the recent demands for investigations into the workings of the John Birch Society.

Opponents of the Society have maintained Welch has charged former President Eisenhower with being "a card-carrying Communist," a claim which the Belmont resident and one-time candy company executive has denied.

Cardinal Cushing said Communist nations recently issued a manifesto directing their adherents all over the world to attempt all means of discrediting anti-Red organizations.

"Ever since then every anti-Communist group has been attacked," he said.

A pamphlet put out by the John Birch Society from its Belmont headquarters nearly a year ago contains a reproduction of a letter from the Cardinal to C. M. Crawford of Los Angeles. In it, the prelate wrote, "I do not know of any more dedicated anti-Communist in the country than Robert Welch. I毫不犹豫地 recom-mend him to you and endorse his John Birch Society."

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
I Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 4-6-61  
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Author:  
Editor: James P. Murphy  
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CC: Bureau

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

## JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY IN QUESTION

After two years of incubation in which it formed more than 100 chapters in 34 states, the John Birch Society has now come into a flood-light of publicity. Magazines and newspapers have written at length on the society, its founder, Robert H. W. Welch Jr., of Belmont, and its purposes. The society is an ultra right wing organization devoted to fighting communism and working for minimal government, which means the repeal of most, if not all, the social legislation of the past 30 years.

The society has an authoritarian and semi-secret aspect, although Mr. Welch denies it is a secret society. He has acknowledged that it seeks on occasion to fight communism with weapons devised or perfected by the Communist Party, the formation of "fronts" and committees, the organized barrage of telephone calls and letters, and, if necessary, the "smear."

Such revelations in the press provoked vociferous and frightened demands for a Congressional investigation.

\* \* \*

The demands for a Congressional inquiry have now abated, although a Senate has yet to dismiss the question before it. Mr. Welch has said the society would welcome an investigation. The American Civil Liberties Union and Americans for Democratic Action opposed any inquiry on the grounds that the society has a perfect right to organize and to propagandize.

Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy termed the organization "ridiculous" and said it "made no contribution to the fight against communism here in the United States." He even thought it "may be a hindrance." He said he had no plans to investigate it.

Agreement became general that the

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
~~XX~~ Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
~~XX~~ Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
~~XX~~ Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
~~XX~~ Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
~~XX~~ Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date 4-8-61  
Edition: MORNING  
Author: EDITORIAL  
Editor: VICTOR O. JONES  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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John Birch Society is legal and entitled to express the views of its members, however extreme or ridiculous others might deem them. What caused widespread alarm were not the political views of the society but fantastic charges said to have been made by its president, Welch, against successive Presidents of the United States.

\* \* \*

In a long document called "The Politician," written before the society was formed, Mr. Welch made strong charges against President Eisenhower, for example, branding him a "conscious agent" of the Communist conspiracy, and his brother, Milton, a Communist Party member for 30 years. Such charges shocked the National Association of Manufacturers into disassociating itself from anyone who made such charges.

Cardinal Cushing, while praising Welch as an "able and courageous" man, said that anyone who said that Mr. Eisenhower had been promoting communism was "speaking absurdities." Mr. Welch does not retract the charges but says they were made in private and that he does not hold them with enough firmness to put them in writing.

\* \* \*

Few Americans will approve this kind of indictment by indirection which builds to terrorism by innuendo. It is a method which dishonors the cause in which it is used. Communism cannot be checked by a surrender to its methods. There is a constant danger to the political health of the nation in such tactics.

Calling "Communist" or "Communist tool" everyone who does not agree with the next man's philosophy is a game that ends in national neurosis.

UNCLE BUDLEY

BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

## Birch Society Branded As 'Unbalanced, Excited'

The John Birch Society yesterday was characterized as "unbalanced, excited and definitely out of focus" in an editorial of the Pilot, official weekly newspaper of the Catholic archdiocese.

The editorial gave the arch-conservative anti-communist organization credit for "all kinds of good intentions," but warned that "when we feed the cause of genuine anti-Communism with overstatement, we err just as badly as those who nourish Communism itself by understatement."

The lead editorial followed a tribute by Cardinal Cushing to Robert Welch of Belmont, founder of the society, as a "sincere and dedicated man."

But at the same time the prelate cautioned against the "exaggeration and excesses which discredit even a good thing."

The Pilot called the society a "good thing gone wrong" and said that "in protecting ourselves against Communism we should be careful not to fall into evils almost as bad."

In a real world faced with real problems, the editorial continued, "there is no place for hysteria, exaggeration, accusation or mis-

representation in an authentic anti-Communist effort.

"Clearly, we need a highly estimable group of American intellectuals who could be relied upon to speak and act with a balanced view on Communism," the Pilot said.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
**XXX** Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

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Editor: GEORGE E. MINOT  
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## Welcomes Probe by Congress

# Aims of Birch Society Defended by Robert Welch

HOLLYWOOD, Apr. 10 (UPI)—Robert Welch, founder and leader of the John Birch Society, spoke out in defense of the controversial group last night by saying its long term aim was to halt the "disease of collectivism and the flight to amorality."

Welch, 61, retired candy magnate from Belmont, Mass., specifically denied he was a "Nazi" or had complete control over the members of the national group.

Welch made his statements while appearing as a guest on the half-hour local TV program of Dr. James W. Fifield Jr., a minister of the First Congregational Church. He will appear as guest speaker tomorrow night at the church's Freedom Club in the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium.

Welch announced the society's primary effort this year was to stop the Communist conspiracy and "educate as many of our neighbors as possible as to what's happening and why it's happening, and to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren."

Welch denied the group was secret or even semi-secret, saying, "all our beliefs are in our publications."

But Welch promised that none of the members would decline to testify by pleading the Fifth Amendment if they were called before a govern-

ment investigating committee. He said he would welcome such an investigation.

Welch, who arrived in Los Angeles Saturday, will travel to Santa Barbara, Calif., Wednesday to deliver a speech at San Marcos High School. The event will be sponsored by the John Birch Society of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
X Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

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BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

## U.S. Senate Trial

### Rap Birch Group

PRINCETON, N.J., Apr. 10 (UPI)—Three United States senators commented on the John Birch Society this weekend in addresses before a three-day symposium on world affairs at Princeton University.

The criticism came from Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.), Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.), and Sen. Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.). They spoke to some 600 students from 21 colleges throughout the east attending the event, entitled "Creative Survival."

McCarthy said he did not believe the society should be subjected to a Congressional investigation. "I just think the Justice Department should keep an eye on it," he said.

Javits demanded a congressional investigation of its operations.

Saltonstall, in his speech, said he felt "strongly" against the Birch group, "especially when it makes insulting remarks about men such as former President Eisenhower."

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
X Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

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Airs Birch Society Aims

## WELCH SAYS HIS GROUP FIGHTS MORAL SLUMP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The John Birch Society is "trying to prevent the breakdown of morality," its founder said Sunday night.

Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass., said also the controversial organization opposes "the disease of collectivism . . . we've got to stop the Communists first. Our primary objective is to educate our neighbors and fellow citizens to what is happening."

### ON SPEAKING TRIP

Welch was interviewed by Dr. James W. Fifield, Jr., minister of the First Congregational Church, on the latter's weekly local television program. Welch is here for Southern California speaking engagements.

Fifield said in introductory

remarks, "It seems to me we've come to the unmasking hour. The area of indecision is being swept out. Towering high, in my judgment, is Mr. Robert Welch."

The pastor asked Welch if the society is "semi-secret."

"It is not semi-secret in any way," said the 61-year-old retired candy manufacturer. "We don't tell how many members we have, and we'll not tell the names of our members. Except for those two things there are no secrets about the John Birch Society."

### HAS ACHIEVEMENTS

The organization's accomplishments to date?

"Getting together such as wonderful body of patriotic men and women," Welch replied. Through distribution of books and magazines, he said, "I think we've done quite a good deal to wake up more people."

Asked "whether the Communist conspiracy could have made progress without the unknowing connivance of people high in government," Welch said:

"I don't think so. Certainly there has been a considerable amount of connivance within our government."

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
~~X~~ Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
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[Redacted Box]  
April 4, 1961

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Hon. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/15/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/ymw

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Because of my past connection with the Bureau [Redacted]

I take the privilege of writing to you to express my regret at the position you have taken regarding the John Birch Society. You state that the trashing down of Communists (capital C) had best be left to a law enforcement agency such as the F.B.I. with the cooperation of every loyal citizen. What sort of co-operation do you suggest? Most good men, believing in personal freedom, consider that it is sufficient to live their own personal lives with integrity, without impinging in any way on the lives of others. Society has its missionaries and its prophets, but counting man for man, more harm is done by an evil person than good is done by a good person.

Therefore, as of course you know, (and please forgive me for mentioning it) it does not take many hard-core Communists to cause a great deal of trouble in this country. Those can be left to the F.B.I. though what your organization can do in the light of recent Supreme Court decisions must produce nothing but frustration among your men working on internal security.

Permit me just a few brush strokes with which to sketch this community in which my three children and two stepchildren are receiving their education. In five different history courses in one large eastern university each professor was careful to state his opposition to Communism, but then insidiously throughout the courses gave interpretations of history which led to a favorable concept of collectivism. The head librarian in the reference room of one of the world's largest libraries who meets probably dozens of strangers a week and who therefore could not be expected to recall a member who goes to the reference room once a month said to me gratuitously more than a year after my joining, "I always remember you because you work for that Republican and we're all Democrats around here." A woman's organization, avowedly non-partisan, states as its national purpose "complete cooperation with the United Nations." They are entitled to their point of view, but it is neither non-partisan nor national. I did no campaigning in the last two presidential elections, but when asked my preference I admitted in 1956 to a liking for Andrews and in 1960 for Goldwater. I was called everything from idiotic to unpatriotic. Naturally it is acceptable to mention Linus Pauling in connection with matters scientific, but if Edward Teller is mentioned, even in a purely scientific discussion, his political views must also be mentioned and deplored. In school the children learn, or at least derive the impression that all international effort is admirable, and by incessant coupling of the word "narrow" with the word "nationalism" patriotism is played down.

From Princeton, New Jersey, which city controls the fates of several hundred thousand young Americans, came this sample question which my youngest child was called on to answer. Stating categorically that a knowledge of history is an antidote for sectionalism and narrow nationalism, it says it leads one to realize the                  of peoples. "Differences", "evolution", and "interdependence" are choices given, but there is no choice of opinion in such a loaded question. As my oldest boy said to the youngest, who took the test, "Boy, you had better answer "interdependence", or it will be counted wrong. He was completely right.

As a private citizen I do nothing, yet the above examples and many more of daily occurrence are borne in upon me and I am bound to notice that the climate is not conducive to the freedom to which we give lip service. The John Birch Society, organized as study groups by loyal and devoted citizens can accomplish much, not only by pooling their information and experience but by study and by digging until they reach the source of opinions and actions which are promulgated to the detriment of our society.

I am not a member of the John Birch Society. But I know Robert Welch, who is the head and founder. A more honorable, upright, and patriotic citizen would be impossible to find. Far from being a "Hitler", a "demagogue" and "wanting to repeal the 20th century" he believes in less, not more government, and does not wish to see this country go backward into history in the direction of a totalitarian form of government.

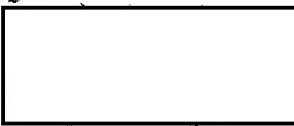
Loyal as I am to my country, I am doing no positive good. My excuse is that my family occupies all my time. Others have different excuses. We must be grateful to those who are willing to stick their individual necks out by banding together to counteract the poison spreading so insidiously throughout our country. The John Birch Society fosters no race or religious prejudice, is neither secret nor compulsive. It is not a debating group; to be so would be to be ineffective. Of course the local groups take orders from the central office. What sort of striking force would a team be which took little or no direction from its captain but which acted as individuals? Ignoring this obvious inefficiency in an organization whose purpose is clearly stated, the irresponsible press calls Robert Welch another Hitler, and implies that that is what he wishes in the way of government. The exact reverse is true. Paternalism within the family unit is admirable, as a form of government it is reprehensible, and should be abhorrent to every liberty-loving American.

I have long admired the way in which you avoid taking sides in the political scene, yet have managed to stand for what is truly American. But even you, I think, have not been able to bring about a situation in which your successor will be chosen with an equal regard for the best interests of this country. Admittedly there exist hate groups which, while patriotic, do foster dissent among minorities and you rightly cannot be associated with them. But if, while bespeaking the loyalty of the private citizens of our republic you cannot at the same time endorse the activities of the John Birch Society whose sole aim is to alert our citizens to the totalitarian aims of large groups and numbers of people, domestic and foreign, witting and unwitting, then it seems to me that there is nothing one can do but fold one's hands and wait and watch our children grow up under communism.

Sincerely yours,

b6  
b7c

April 11, 1961



Dear [redacted]

b6  
b7c

I have received your letter of April 4 and appreciate the concern which prompted your communication. I want to thank you for giving me the benefit of your comments and observations with respect to the organization you discussed.

The FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. In light of the foregoing I can assure you that I have not nor has any representative of this Bureau made any statement concerning the group you mentioned.

In view of your interest, I am enclosing some material which you may like to read.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (2)  
1 - Boston - Enclosure

100-32899-137

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 12 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

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FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/15/03 BY AUC 16290 BCE/DCG

b6  
b7c

4/11/61

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (62-11243)  
SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
IS-X

Re NY airtel 4/7/61.

Mrs. ALICE WIDENER, 829 Park Avenue, NY, NY, who is well known to the Bureau, furnished the following information on 4/11/61 to SA ALESIO SAVIOLA:

"The New Bedford Standard-Times" (New Bedford Mass.) 4/7/61, carried an article under the heading, "American Institute (AI) To Hear JOHN NOBLE". The article stated that NOBLE would speak at 2:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon at John Hancock Hall under the auspices of the AI.

The article reported that AI officials have pointed out that although AI programs are often recommended by the John Birch Society (JBS), the AI speakers are not necessarily members of the JBS.

Further down in the article, it was indicated that Mrs. WIDENER was not a member of the JBS and that HERBERT PHILBRICK was president of the AI.

Mrs. WIDENER said that she would drop the issue (that is, that the "Standard-Times" carry a statement that she was not a member of the JBS) at this point. However, in the future she intends to be very careful and circumspect in her dealings with [redacted] of the "Standard-Times". b6 b7c

4 - Bureau (RM)  
1 - 100-341171 (ALICE WIDENER)  
1 - Boston (RM) (Info)  
1 - New York (62-11243)  
AS/jem  
(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/1/03 BY Auc 6020 BCE/Dec/gmw

100-32899-138

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 12 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

*[Signature]*

## American Institute To Hear John Noble

Special to The Standard-Times

BOSTON, April 7—John H. Noble, an American who spent nine years in Soviet forced labor camps in Siberia, will speak at 2:30 p. m. Sunday in John Hancock Hall, under the auspices of the American Institute.

Although its programs often are recommended by the John Birch Society, institute officials have pointed out that its speakers are not necessarily members of that group. Last week the institute sponsored an address by Mrs. Alice Widener, columnist, who is not a member of the society. Herbert Philbrick is president of the institute.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

New Bedford Mass Standard Times

Date: 4/7/61

Edition: PM

Author:

Editor: Charles J. Lewin

Title:

John Birch Society

Class. or Character: IS - X

Page:

Buffile No.

Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899.

139

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DATE 01-30-2012

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DATE 7/15/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/jmw

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## Ban-the-Bomb Views Are Hit

American Institute  
Hears Mrs. Widener

By Standard-Times Staff Writer

BOSTON, April 4—Members of the John Birch Society and others were told last night that the views "of some of our scientists," if adopted, would mean surrender to international Soviet Communism.

Mrs. Alice Widener of New York, columnist and publisher of the news commentary, U.S.A., said there seemed to be "the closest kind of affiliation" between the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, the Pugwash group, and "some of our leading scientists" in advocating a policy of "quiescence."

Ingredients of that policy she listed as unilateral disarmament, unilateral ban on nuclear testing and advocacy of the "calculated risk" in relying on the word of the Soviets.

### Sound Dollar Urged

Such views were termed one of the two threats to national survival, the other being the danger to the U. S. dollar. A sound currency, an end to deficit spending and a ceiling on the national debt, she said, are essential.

Mrs. Widener spoke before some 100 persons at the American Institute, 64 Sigourney Street, Jamaica Plain. Her address was

sponsored by the institute and had been recommended by the John Birch Society to its membership.

The John Birch Society, which has received national attention, currently because of remarks attributed to its founder, Robert H. W. Welch Jr. of Belmont, concerning President Eisenhower, was not discussed at the meeting. Mr. Welch was not present.

The Rev. Oswald Blumit, president of the sponsoring institute, before introducing Mrs. Widener, commented that "bitter words" had been spoken by many Americans during calamitous periods like the fall of China to Communists and the war in Korea.

He said he did not know one member of the society who was not of "the highest caliber and whom I do not respect." If there is a probe of the organization, he added, it "will come out 10 times stronger."

### Suggestions Rejected

Mrs. Widener was somewhat less conservative in her outlook than many of her audience. She declined to recommend breaking off relations with the Soviet Union, removal of the United Nations from American soil, or censure of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, as some questions from the floor invited her to do.

In her view, mistakes of the past were now too ingrained to be rectified by such views.

It was her opinion that President Kennedy was "aghast" when he found out what international conditions "really were." She expressed hope that he would reach wise decisions and would not "accede to those scientists" in determining U. S. nuclear and defense policy.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

New Bedford, Mass. Standard Times

Date: 4/4/61

Editor: PM

Author:

Editor: Charles J. Lewin

Title:

John Birch Society

Class. or Character: IS - X

Page:

Bufile No.

Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899-

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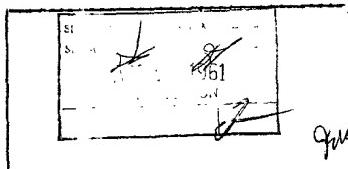
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DATE 01-30-2012

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DATE 01/15/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/deg/gmws



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC Att. Sup [redacted]

(100-32899)

DATE: 4/17/61

FROM : SA [redacted]

b6  
b7c

SUBJECT: John Birch Society

IS-X

Re NY airtel dated 4/7/61

attached clippings from the New Bedford News Standard Times of 4/4/61 and 4/7/61 are articles mentioned in referenced airtel.

Mrs. WIDENER's objection that the article of 4/4/61 left the implication that she was affiliated with the John Birch Society seems to have been corrected by the article of 4/7/61 definitely stating she is not a member.

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FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

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DATE 7/16/03 BY AVE 60290.BCE/dec/gmw

100-32899-141

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SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 13 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

## Birch Group Is Sued for **\$150,000**

The John Birch Society of Belmont is sued for \$150,000 by a Methodist minister of Santa Ana, Calif., who alleges he was falsely called a Communist at a California meeting of the anti-Red group.

The Rev. Arthur E. Harrington, pastor of the First Methodist Church of La Habra filed the suit in the superior court at Santa Ana. He denied he was a Communist, and said the accusation had exposed him to hatred, ridicule and contempt.

Named co-defendants with the society were its founder, Robert

Welch of Belmont and Dr. James F. Garry, a Fullerton, Calif., dentist. Mr. Harrington said that Dr. Garry had referred to him as a Communist.

Dr. Garry has denied the statement, saying the meeting was not held by the Birch group, but by the Christian School for Anti-Communism. He said he was a John Birch Society member.

In Belmont, a spokesman for the society said neither the group nor Welch had any comment.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 4-15-61  
Edition: SUNDAY MORNING  
Author:  
Editor: GEORGE E. MINOT  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class: P-14 24

Page:

Bufile No.

Submitting Office: Boston

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

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DATE 7/15/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/jmw

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APR 13 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

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BS-8 Revised (6-17-59)

## CHURCHES WARNED ON BIRCH SOCIETY

By the Editor of The Herald:

The invitation extended to officials of the John Birch Society by 11 distinguished Protestant clergymen (Herald, Apr. 11) was obviously motivated by a profoundly Christian desire to work with all those concerned with the threat of Communist totalitarianism. But in light of the published record of the John Birch Society I'm wondering if such cooperation is possible? The 11 clergymen in question represent the leadership in the highly respected Massachusetts Council of Churches which in turn cooperates closely and is affiliated with the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

One year ago the official Bulletin of the John Birch Society (Apr. 1960) carried these words of advice to its membership:

"... If your church is out of the National Council, rejoice and help it to stay out. If it remains a member, do all you can, and enlist your minister's aid, to sever all connections. For as long as your church gives moral and financial support to the National Council of Churches, as the Council is run today you are helping the enemy."

This article concluded by urging a determined drive in communities across the land to "... eliminate Communist influence from control over Christian churches."

A word of caution might also be extended here to those Catho-

lics who find the Birch Society's method of fighting Communism appealing. In the same issue of the JBS Bulletin quoted above, the radio broadcasts of Dr. Carl McIntire are given high praise and recommended to members of the Society. And in the widely publicized JBS "Blue Book", Dr. McIntire and other Protestant fundamentalist leaders are described as "great Americanists". By way of explanation, Dr. McIntire is the founder of the bitterly anti-Catholic American Council of Christian Churches. In the weekly newspaper of this Council, the Christian Beacon, Dr. McIntire has written:

"... One wonders sometimes if all the antagonism of the Roman Catholic Church to Communism is not being played up especially in the U.S. at the present time for the purpose of gaining advantage for the Roman Catholics... America has to face the Roman Catholic terror. The sooner the Christian people of America wake up to this danger, the safer will be our land."

Unity in the face of a common enemy is highly desirable but the prospect of genuine and lasting cooperation between members of the John Birch Society and responsible Protestant spokesmen in the Hub strikes me as being about as bright as a rebirth of the "Popular Front" representing every shade of liberal and far leftist opinion.

GORDON HALL  
Boston

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 4-17-61  
Edition: Late City  
Author:  
Editor: George E. Minot  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: 100-  
Page: 20  
Bufile No.  
Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

100-32899-143

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SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

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DATE 01-30-2012

CC: Bureau

# THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

from  
**ROBERT B. DRESSER and NORMAN D. MacLEOD**

April 13, 1961.

**Dear Sir:**  
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
ATTACKED

During recent weeks the papers have been filled with stories about The John Birch Society, an organization formed to fight Communism.

The Journal has ridiculed and vigorously attacked the Society. They have referred to the Society as having "evil views" (See, Journal editorial of April 1), and they have published cartoons linking The John Birch Society and the House Committee on Un-American Activities together and suggesting that they "should really know each other," meaning apparently that "Birds" of a Feather should flock together.

The Journal has sought by telephone calls to get certain information from us about our connection with the Society, of which we are members. We have preferred to prepare a written statement answering the Journal's questions and containing certain facts which the public should know.

## FOUNDING OF SOCIETY

The John Birch Society was founded by Robert Welch, of Belmont, Massachusetts, in December 1958. Its immediate objective is to fight and destroy the Communist conspiracy in the United States. This, every good American, we are sure, will consider a worthy objective.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

## PROVIDENCE SUNDAY JOURNAL, Prov.R.I.

Date: 4/16/61  
Edition: Sunday  
Author: ROBERT B. DRESSER & NORMAN D.  
Editor: SEVELLON PROWN, III MAC LEOD  
Title: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character:

Page: N-13

Bufile No.

Submitting Office: Boston

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:

FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE

DATE 01-30-2012

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## ORIGIN OF ATTACK

The recent attack against the Society was started apparently by an article which appeared in the official Communist paper, The People's World, in San Francisco, on February 25, 1961. This was followed by an article in Time Magazine, issue dated March 10, which began appearing on news stands on March 7.

It is perhaps significant that the local units of The John Birch Society, which it calls "Chapters", a thoroughly respectable title, are called "Cells", a name with an evil connotation, by The People's World, and that this same name is used later by Time and the Providence Journal. And there are other points of similarity.

This attack, of course, is not based upon the Society's fight against Communism, but rather upon certain statements alleged to have been made by the founder, Mr. Welch, several years before the founding of the Society, accusing certain high officials in our Government of being Communists.

## WHY THE ATTACK IS STARTED NOW

If the attack is based upon statements alleged to have been made by Mr. Welch several years before the Society was founded and if the Society has been in operation for over two years, the question naturally arises as to why the attack is started now.

Perhaps the following facts may throw some light on this question:

For some months the film, "Operation Abolition", showing the Communist-planned and Communist-led student riot in San Francisco against the House Committee on Un-American Activities last May, has been shown extensively about the country. Hundreds of copies of the film are in circulation and the showing of it is creating a wave of bitter resentment against the Communists. They realize that at last visual evidence of Communism in action in the United States has been made available to the people, and they are trying in every way possible to discredit the film and to deceive people into believing that the film is a fake.

In this they have been aided by the Providence Journal and various other newspapers and organizations that wish to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities, in spite of the statements of J. Edgar Hoover urging its continuance and the recent overwhelming vote of approval of the Committee by the House of Representatives, -412 to 6.

The John Birch Society, and its members, we understand, have been responsible for thousands of presentations of the film in various ports of the country, —much more than any other group.

Can it be that this is the real reason that gave rise to the attack? The John Birch Society is certainly an organization that can do the Communist conspiracy great harm, — ~~more than~~ any other organization of which we have any knowledge.

## WHY IS AN ANTI-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION SINGLED OUT FOR ATTACK?

It has been reliably reported that there are, or have been, over 600 Communist-front organizations in this country.

May we inquire how many of them the Journal has attacked?

We do not at the moment recall any. **WE SHOULD APPRECIATE THE JOURNAL'S ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION.**

If the answer is "none", then why does it single out an Anti-Communist organization for attack?

## SOCIETY'S ORGANIZATION

As the Journal has already learned, we believe, the governing body of The John Birch Society is the "Council", and there is also a Committee of Endorsees composed of individuals in the various states. We are members of that committee.

As far as we know, there is no chapter or, as the Journal following the line of The People's World would prefer to call it, "cell", in Rhode Island.

## SOCIETY'S WORK AGAINST COMMUNISM EFFECTIVE

In our opinion the Society is the most effective agency which we have for defeating the Communist conspiracy in the United States. Robert Welch is the most dedicated Anti-Communist and the best informed person on Communism of whom we have any knowledge. For example, from the very start, while the State Department, the New York Times and other newspapers and individuals in the country were hailing Fidel Castro as the saviour of Cuba, Mr. Welch decried that Castro was an outright

Communist and a tool of Soviet Russia, which stated his reasons fully, both verbally and in his written publications.

### MR. WELCH DEVOTING HIS LIFE TO TASK

Mr. Welch is devoting his life to the destruction of the Communist conspiracy in this country. We understand that he is working in this task 16 hours a day.

No American having any knowledge of the dangers threatened by the Communist conspiracy can have anything but the highest respect for this man who is dedicating his life to this cause.

### WHETHER WE BELIEVE CERTAIN PERSONS ARE COMMUNISTS

We have been asked by Mr. Wolfson, the Journal reporter, whether we think that former President Eisenhower, John Foster Dulles and certain other United States leaders were Communists. Our answer is emphatically "No".

### NATION ENGAGED IN STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

Our nation is presently engaged in a struggle for survival, and we are losing the fight.

Our enemy is Soviet Russia, which is bent upon dominating the world. It is convinced that it will attain its objective and that the principal obstacle in its way, the United States of America, will in due time be taken over. It expects to accomplish this by subversion from within, as it has done in other countries, and not by force of arms.

Thousands of its agents are working night and day in our midst to accomplish its objective, infiltrating various groups and organizations and even our Government, stirring up strife and discord, stealing our military secrets and promoting the adoption of destructive policies.

The danger that Soviet Russia may be able to accomplish her objective, and within a very few years, is becoming increasingly evident. The prospect of such domination is terrifying. It would mean the enslavement of the American people and the liquidation of millions of them.

And yet the Journal and other good Americans are seeking to destroy the agencies, such as the House Committee on Un-American Activities and The John Birch Society, that are endeavoring to defeat the Communist conspiracy in this country.

Whose side does the Journal think it is on?

### STATEMENT BY ADMIRAL BURKE

The following is an Associated Press dispatch of April 10:

"Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, U.S. Chief of Naval Operations, said today totalitarian Communism may conquer the world because of what he termed 'traditional Yankee Optimism'.

"Burke said an optimistic refusal to acknowledge the extent of the Communist threat, and a preoccupation with the military aspect of the struggle have caused many Americans to feel themselves that there is no threat."

"The Communists, he said, hope that our own indifference, our own apathy, our own preoccupation with material things will in themselves weaken the ideas and the ideals they seek to destroy."

"We must recognize the urgency of the Communist threat," he said, "but there remain many others in private life in our affluent society who are so self-satisfied, so comfortable, so content that they cannot be bothered with the... dangers which surround them."

Burke said many nations have failed to conquerors because their citizens were self-satisfied, placid, self-confident, money-getting, pleasure-loving people, honoring success and hugging their financial security.

"The nation's military strength must be maintained," he said, "but national security is based on courage, not on money nor on material wealth, military power."

### STATEMENT OF AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE

In its 1958 report the American Bar Association's Special Committee on Communist Tactics, Strategy, and Objectives stated:

"The real strength of communism in the United States is the number of non-Communist organizations and individuals who will collaborate with the Communists. For every Communist Party member, there may be one hundred non-Communists who will do the work of the Communists.

"The Communists now have six hundred fronts. In addition they have 'fronts in front of the fronts.' Making use of their fellow travelers and dupes, plus their 'united front tactic,' the Communists boast they can have fifty-thousand letters on any issue sent to Capitol Hill or the White House inside of seventy-two hours. \*\*\*

"The greatest asset the Communists have at the present time is not the hydrogen bomb, certainly not Soviet satellites, but world ignorance of their tactics, strategy and objectives. \*\*\*

"Most persons who are informed on communism think our country is now in greater danger than were the Titanic and Pearl Harbor. The thesis of J. Edgar Hoover's new book, Masters of Deceit, is:

"Communism is the major menace of our time. Today, it threatens the very existence of our western civilization."

### DUPES

That "dupes" innocently play a most important part in the Communist movement to take over the United States is demonstrated by the San Francisco riot film. Can the American people be gotten to understand this?

Yours Truly,

ROBERT B. DRESSER

NORMAN M. McLEOD

## General Shifted in Army Birch Society Probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—The army announced yesterday that Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker has been relieved of command of the 24th Infantry Division in Germany pending an investigation of allegations that he gave his troops material about the right-wing John Birch Society.

The Army said Sec. of the Army Elvis J. Stahr has ordered Walker transferred immediately to U. S. Army European headquarters at Heidelberg, Germany "pending the outcome of an official investigation of certain public statements and actions of Gen. Walker."

Although the statement did not mention the Birch Society, officials acknowledged that this was the matter involved.

The investigation is now being made by Gen. Bruce Clarke, Commander-in-Chief of Army Forces in Europe.

The controversy arose last week when the Overseas Weekly, a privately owned servicemen's newspaper, charged that Walker used army facilities to disseminate to his troops what it called propaganda of the anti-Communist John Birch Society.

The paper reported that publications and material of the society are distributed among 24th Division soldiers under programs set up by Walker.

Overseas Weekly also said the society's material had been reprinted in the division's weekly newspaper.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
 Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 4-18-61  
Edition: Sunrise  
Author:  
Editor: James P. Murphy  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: 100

Page: 7

Bufile No.

Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

100 32899-145

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/15/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/jmw

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

\* Bureau

## Rabbis Urge Nation Probe Birch Society

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. (AP) — The Rabbinical Council of America yesterday asked Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy to investigate the right-wing John Birch Society.

The request to Kennedy was made in a telegram sent by the council during its 25th annual convention.

It came after Rabbi Emanuel Rackman of Far Rockaway, N. Y., honorary president of the council, called the Birch Society "narrow, fascist-like and bigoted."

"Bigotry, hatred and anti-Semitism are the forerunners of the totalitarian plot to undermine freedom and liberty everywhere," Rabbi Rackman told the group. He said the trial of Adolf Eichmann now being conducted in Jerusalem should serve as a reminder of this.

The Birch Society, he said, "is introducing into our communities grave forces of dissension, division and defamation, which can ultimately eventuate in a breakdown of democracy and fair play in all our national dealings."

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
 Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 4-19-61  
Edition: Sunrise  
Author:  
Editor: James P. Murphy  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: 100-  
Page: 27  
Bufile No.  
Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

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DATE 01-30-2012

100-32899-146

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>b7c</i>	FILED <i>b7c</i>

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b7C

b6  
b7c

April 1 1961

Dear Nichols:

Here he is again, that old [redacted] of F.B.I. Front.

This time instead of asking a favor, I have one to do for you, if you want it.

The John Birch Society of which there has been so much talk in the papers of late.

I have a rather complete file on this bird all the result of a member of my own church giving him my name to add to his "sucker" list.

I have letters written by Welch and signed by him and a rather complete list of "the inner circle" of control. I stung him (and I have a copy of the letter) by calling him a faker and he could not resist the temptation to "put me in my place".

I have been in his home and even lent Mrs Welch my copy of "The Patton Story". When I had to go over and pick up the book, I visited the inner sanctum at Concord Avenue and saw the staff of the Birch Society.

As you will remember, I have [redacted]  
[redacted] Want us to go up and clean the place out?

b6  
b7c

I often think of the days when [redacted]  
[redacted], you and I out [redacted] at York and I can still taste the steak served at "The Inn"

40-32899-147

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 2 2 1961	
FBI-BOSTON	

*[Signature]*

Cordially

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/15/02 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/lwm

April 7, 1961

Dear [redacted]

b6  
b7c

I have received your letter of April 1, 1961, which was forwarded to me by former Assistant to the Director Louis B. Nichols of this Bureau. Thank you for giving me the benefit of your remarks concerning the organization and individuals you discussed. While your offer of cooperation is deeply appreciated, I can think of no way in which you can assist us at this time in connection with the matter you mentioned.

With respect to your observations, I would like to point out to you that the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual.

In view of your interest, I am enclosing some literature dealing with the general subject of communism which you may like to read.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

7/15/63 AUC 60290 BCE/deg/ymw

Enclosures (4)

① - Boston - Enclosure

10-32899-148  
b7c

[Signature]

[Redacted]

**Indices Search Slip**  
FD-160 (Rev. 10-1-59)

FD-160 (Rev. 10-1-59)

TO: CHIEF CLERK

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**Subject**

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### Aliases

Pgt.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Exact Spelling	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal Case Files Only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restrict to Locality of
<input type="checkbox"/> All References	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal References Only	
<input type="checkbox"/> Main Subversive Case Files Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Subversive References Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)	

Requested by \_\_\_\_\_ Squad \_\_\_\_\_ Extension \_\_\_\_\_ File No. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Searched by**

Consolidated by \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

(date)

#### False Positive Symbols

I - Identical  
NI - Not Identical

? - Not identifiable  
U - Unquotable reference

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/15/03 BY AUC 602

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-433575)  
Attn: Central Research

April 26, 1961

SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-11362)

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

SECURITY MATTER - C

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED

APR 26 1961 AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/ymw

OO KC

Rerep of SA CHARLES J. KELLERMAN dated 3/15/61 at Kansas City.

A mail cover was [REDACTED]

b7E

[REDACTED] the following concerns and  
organizations:

- 2 - Bureau (RM)  
2 - Boston (RM)  
2 - New York (RM)  
2 - San Francisco (RM)  
2 - Washington Field (RM)  
2 - Kansas City  
RPC:gms  
(12)

42-899-149  
JH JH JH

✓

KC 100-11362

Bureau and above offices please furnish characterizations for those organizations or concerns for which characterizations will be needed in a future report.

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-433575)

5/8/61

SAC, BOSTON (100-0

[redacted]  
SM - C  
(OO: KC)

b6  
b7C

b7E

Re Kansas City letter to Bureau, attention of Central Research,  
dated 1/26/61 contained as above advised subject [redacted]

For the information of Kansas City, "American Opinion" is the official publication of the John Birch Society. Information concerning ROBERT H. WELCH, JR., head of the John Birch Society, is set forth in SACLETS #59-13 dated 3/10/59 and #60-5 dated 1/26/60. Information concerning the John Birch Society is set forth in SACLET #61-14 dated 3/21/61.

- 2 - Bureau (100-433575) (RM)  
1 - Kansas City (100-11362) (Info) (RM)  
1 - Boston 106 - 32479

FMC:imj  
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*Jmm*

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FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE

DATE 01-30-2012

7/15/03 AUC 402470 DUE/DEC/10/04 100-32479-150

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**Indices Search Slip**  
FD-160 (Rev. 10-1-59)

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Date

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### **Aliases**

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthplace** \_\_\_\_\_ **Race** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sex**  
\_\_\_\_\_  **Male**  **Female**

<input type="checkbox"/> Exact Spelling	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal Case Files Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Restrict to Locality of
<input type="checkbox"/> All References	<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal References Only	
<input type="checkbox"/> Main Subversive Case Files Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Subversive References Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/15/03 BY AUC 40220 BCE/DCG/jpm

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Searched by JPC Date 5/1  
(date)

Consolidated by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

### File Review Symbols

I - Identical ? - Not identifiable  
NI - Not identical U - Unavailable reference

BS-8 Revised (7-17-59)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/15/03 BY AVE 60390 BCE/DCS/jmw

# John Birch Idea Held Sound

By HOLMES ALEXANDER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Many will write to say that it takes a foolhardy columnist to rise and defend the John Birch Society, especially when he's not a member. My answer would be that it took the touch of the desperado to discover the New World, the two polar regions, medical anesthetics and many inaccessible but abstract truths as well. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Robert Welch, founder and president of the JBS, has pondered long and reached the considered opinion that the Eisenhower brothers have not been anti-Communist enough, and that Chief Justice Earl Warren is a menace to the American republic.

These are extreme positions, rendered more extreme by misquotation and distortion. But Welch made the min hot blood in an era when the battle is going against us internally, externally, morally and psychologically.

## Epithets Unfair

With Mr. Kennedy's disaster in Cuba, Laos and Geneva, added to Mr. Eisenhower's in Japan, Paris, the U-2 case, and Mr. Truman's in Potsdam, Korea and Hungary, it doesn't seem too much to forgive a high-tempered man for using rough language.

If Welch owes some apologies (as I believe he does), many persons owe the same to him. It is insulting for a gray-haired super-

patriot (why is that noun a smutty word?) to be called a fascist, dictator, nazi, hate-monster and anti-Semite. All these are epithets capable of inciting personal and professional injury to Welch and, by unfair association, to his followers. Welch has denied that he is, or would ever be, any of these things. He and several JBS members have asked to be examined before congressional committees so as to refute these accusations under oath.

## Goals Not Same

The Society is a perfectly furious anti-Communist organization which advocates giving the Reds some of their own medicine. By implication, this could mean taking Havana as ruthlessly as Khrushchev took Budapest, training guerrillas and subversives to upset Communist governments, making anti-Americans as unpopular in America as anti-Reds are in Communist lands.

Much of the JBS policy is shocking to prudish Americans and those who affect prudishness to show off their "couthiness", but the other day Rep. Walter Judd (R., Minn.) made the same philosophic points in much more eloquent, more cogent language. Speaking before the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, Judd insisted (as does the JBS) that we can't apply Judeo-Christian ethics or American codes of honor and chivalry to communism.

Judd said:

"The reason why it is not possible to get any real agreement with the Communist world... is that they at Yalta for the UNO of Communism, at Geneva, and at Berlin, is because the Communists

ists are not pursuing the same goals as we, at our best, are pursuing.

"And why are they not pursuing the same goals as we? It is because they do not believe in the same things as we do—about politics and about the universe; that is, about God.

"We cannot readily condemn esthetic Communists for betraying Christian values which they have never professed, and which in fact they deny. It is absurd to believe that they can make moral judgments when their creed tells them that man is not a moral being, but is an economic animal."

Robert Welch and Walter Judd, though miles apart in their ability to articulate, are trying to say much the same thing, which is this: Let's stop treating Communists like moral equals.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.

Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.

X Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.

Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.

Christian Science Monitor,

Boston, Mass.

Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 5-8-61  
 Edition: Late City  
 Author: Holmes Alexander  
 Editor: George E. Minot  
 Title JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: 100  
 Page: 23  
 Bufile No.  
 Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

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SERIALIZED	FILED

b6  
b7C

## Refends Birch Society

To the Editor of The Herald:  
Recently two letters were printed from Gordon Hall and Julius Bernstein attacking the John Birch Society.

Mr. Hall offers the fact that because the National Council of Churches is severely criticized (by the Birch Society), Protestants should keep away from the Society. Does Mr. Welch stand alone in this criticism? We all can think of radio commentators, Congressional committee, Air Force training manual writers, etc., that weren't overly friendly in the past.

Catholics are also warned by Mr. Hall (despite the Cardinal's endorsement of JBS) through false usage of logic. Because, in the Blue Book, Mr. Welch praised Protestant fundamentalists, one of whom is anti-Catholic (there even more than one), therefore the Birchers are anti-Catholic. As a Catholic, I'd rather heed the Cardinal's advice.

Mr. Bernstein mentions that in the March, 1951, bulletin, the Supreme Court is smeared with the label of "instrument of Communist global conquest." It happens this exact quote is the title of a report prepared for the Senate Internal Security Committee in 1958. (Not by Mr. Welch.)

We note further the attempt to associate Mr. Welch with the wearing mob of segregationists in Louisiana. Perhaps it would have cleared the air if Mr. B.

had quoted the two sentences which immediately preceded those he ripped from the January 1961 Bulletin to add to his personal thoughts on the matter. They read, "The real issue is not integration in the schools or restaurants, or anywhere else. The first issue of importance involved is States' Rights."

Very few liberals appreciate this fact of states' rights which the conservative holds so dear.

Now I must touch on a low blow which Mr. B. aims at the JBS by means of the same illogical reasoning. The insinuation of anti-semitism is one which cannot be substantiated anywhere either in the literature of the Society or in any utterances of its members. As a matter of fact, the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith found no such evidence and is actively helping our field co-ordinators in other regions of the country set up meetings to show anti-Communist films.

This latter charge so grossly unfair and untrue, should enable any real American to see through the mud and smear that is currently being thrown at Mr. Robert Welch, the John Birch Society, and anyone else who speaks out against communism's inroads in America today.

D. F. CALLAHAN, JR.  
Cochituate.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
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Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 5-9-61  
Edition: Late City  
Author: D. F. Callahan, Jr.  
Editor: George E. Minot  
Title JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: 100  
Page: 24  
Bufile No.  
Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

100-32899-152

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....

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b7c

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
MEMORANDUM

TO : SAC, BOSTON

DATE: 5/4/61

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT:

147 S- 44634

31-7A61

ROBERT-WELCH INC  
BELMONT 7B MASS  
-3-17-62-US-E-

SM-C

On 3/31/61 [redacted] a source who has furnished  
reliable information in the past [redacted]

b7D

"The Worker," 23 West 26th Street, NYC, an East Coast  
Communist weekly newspaper.

Attached above is a photograph of the name and  
address of a subscriber.

An explanation of the symbols appearing under the  
name and address is set forth on the reverse side of this  
memorandum.

The above is forwarded for your information and  
appropriate action.

No copy of this attachment is being forwarded by  
the NYO.

06-38617-153

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

*[Handwritten signature over stamp]*

RGO:rmv

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/15/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/gmw

### SYMBOLS

The last line of the subscribers stencilled name and address indicates:

1. Date of expiration
2. Length of subscription
3. New-straight renewal or old renewal
4. Name of paper
5. Whether direct or through an agent

To determine length of sub we use A thru M (Omitting I)

A - 1 mo.	H - 8 mos.
B - 2 "	J - 9"
C - 3 "	K - 10"
D - 4 "	L - 11"
E - 5 "	M - 1 year
F - 6 "	2M - 2 years
G - 7 "	

"F" (6 months) and "M" (1 year) are most often found on THE WORKER subs, also "K" (10 months).

For fractions of a month,  $\frac{1}{2}$  is used.

EXAMPLE: 5-11-59 M W refers to a Sunday "Worker" Sub for one year, expiring May 11, 1959.

5-11-59 $\frac{1}{2}$  W refers to a 6 mo."Worker" Sub which will run for an extra week over 6 months, and which expires May 11, 1959.

For subscriptions that are renewed within two weeks after expiration, the symbol "R" is used, to show that no copies are missed, e.g., 5-11-59 FR.

For subscriptions that were renewed after the date of expiration and the two weeks of grace, the symbol appears as RS, e.g., 5-11-59 RS which signifies that the subscription was renewed after expiration.

If the subscription is received through an agent of any kind, the symbol "A" is found at right of the plate, e.g., 5-11-59 M W A.

If THE WORKER subscription was a combination sub, the symbol D is included, e.g., 5-11-59 MW D.

\* BS-8 Revised (7-17-57)

## About the John Birch Society

I wish to challenge certain charges leveled by Robert Dresser, Norman MacLeod and Father Peter Maguire in relation to the recent press controversy involving The John Birch Society.

In a signed advertisement (Sunday Journal, 4/16) Messrs. Dresser and MacLeod assert that "... The recent attack against the Society was started apparently by an article which appeared in the official Communist paper, The People's World, in San Francisco, on February 25, 1961." Speaking before the Cranston Council, Knights of Columbus, (Evening Bulletin, 5/4) Father Maguire charged that the liberal press took its cue from Communist newspapers in attacking The John Birch Society.

It is true that The People's World, a scurrilous West Coast Communist newspaper, attacked the Society in late February of this year. But this story appeared a full six months after the conservative and respected Boston Herald published an extensive front-page series. Stanley Eames wrote three separate exposé pieces which the Herald published on August 28-30, 1960.

Prior to the Herald articles, the Milwaukee Journal published a front-page story entitled "Group Branding Ike As Red Has 10 Chapters In Wisconsin." This piece appeared in the Journal on July 31, 1960. The Chicago Daily News, the Miami Herald, the Louisville Courier-Journal and many other daily newspapers placed The John Birch Society in perspective for their readers long before the Communist press had anything to report.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.

Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.

Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.

Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.

Christian Science Monitor,

Boston, Mass.

Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 5/16/1

Edition: Sunday

Author: GENE W. D. HALL

Editor: SHELTON BROWN, III

Title

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character:

Page: N-37

Bufile No.

Submitting Office: Boston

100-32899-154

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MAY 30 1960	

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DATE 2/15/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/ymw

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/15/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE /DCG/gmw

dorsed and encouraged support of anti-Catholic extremism. The much publicized Blue Book of the Welch movement, for example, describes Carl McIntire, founder of the American Council of Christian Churches, as a "... great Americanist" and encourages Birch Society members to support McIntire's radio broadcasts with financial contributions.

The anti-Catholicism of McIntire is better known than before as a result of his recent and strenuous efforts to keep any Roman Catholic from being nominated for the presidency. In a bitter appeal letter issued last December, the American Council gloomily acknowledged the Kennedy victory in these words:

"... Whether we will now lose our liberty and freedom to Romanism or whether we will now surrender our sovereignty to Communism is of little importance. The thing that is important is that both of these threats are nearer to reality now than ever before in our history."

The Journal and Evening Bulletin have carefully documented their criticisms of The John Birch Society and founder Robert Welch. It is regrettable that Messrs. Dresser and MacLeod, along with Father Maguire, choose to answer these criticisms by suggesting and implying that they originated in the Communist press. It is precisely these tactics which are helping further to discredit The John Birch Society.

Gordon D. Hall  
Boston, Mass.

Father Maguire also told the Knights of Columbus in Cranston that he is not yet ready to give an opinion of The John Birch Society because he does not "... know enough about it." Before such an opinion is forthcoming, I respectfully suggest that Father Maguire carefully examine the relationship of the Society to the bitterly anti-Catholic, extremist Protestant fundamentalist church orbit. Despite Mr. Welch's statements concerning a very large Catholic following, the official publications of his Society have consistently en-



Operation Abolition  
Hawthorneville Courier Journal

Note: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Subject's name and aliases		Address of subject		Character of case
WELCH SOCIETY "MEET THE PRESS"				
Complainant	Complainant's address and telephone number			Complaint received
[Redacted]				<input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephonic Date 5-21-61 Time 6:40PM
Subject's Description	Place Sex Height Hair Build			Birth date and Birthplace
	Age	Male	Weight Eyes	Complexion
		[Redacted] Female		
Scars, marks or other data				

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b7c

Facts of complaint

[Redacted] advised this office that he tried to get in touch with Mr. HOOVER in Washington, D. C. and was referred to this office. [Redacted] stated that he was watching the WELCH SOCIETY meet the press on TV and claims that it is a new Bund.

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[Redacted] stated that the FBI should get after him (MR. WELCH) and that we don't need him to try and tell us how to run the country. [Redacted] stated we have the Democrat's and Republican's to do that.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/15/03 BY 290 BCE/DCB/jmw

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

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(Agent)  
Security Patrol Clerk

30-77-155

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SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 21 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

## Birch Head Puts Kennedy Back on Approved List

WASHINGTON, May 21 (UPI)—Robert Welch, head of the John Birch Society, said today that President Kennedy's name has been dropped from the list of officials the group does not approve.

But he said this does not repudiate criticisms the society leveled at Mr. Kennedy when he was in the Senate.

On a nationwide television program (NBC—Meet the Press), Welch also denied that he ever had said "in writing or in words" that former President Eisenhower was a Communist.

He said he made such a statement, however, in letters sent out to close friends. He said the contents of the letters had been made public through a "serious breach of confidence, unethical journalism and dis-

regard of my property rights." He said Eisenhower's name had not been dropped from the Birch "Blue Book," although some members favored such action.

Welch also denied that the society is a secret organization. He described it as a non-profit educational group dedicated to fighting communism and preserving a "constitutional re-

public" in this country, rather than a democracy.

Welch declined to comment on Mr. Kennedy's record in the White House so far, except to say he would "like to see the honeymoon go on longer."

He did say, however, that he thought Mr. Kennedy was "under Communist influence" while he was a senator.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
 Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Mass.  
 Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 5-22-62  
Edition: Morning  
Author:  
Editor: Victor O. Jones  
Title JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: 100  
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DCG Bureau

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SERIALIZED	FILED

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## Auditors Preparing Report Head of John Birch Society Says Movement Is Growing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The founder and president of the controversial John Birch Society said Sunday night it is growing "very rapidly in strength and numbers and auditors are preparing a complete report on its finances.

Robert Welch, countering charges the ultra-conservative organization is semi-secret and makes no accounting of its funds, said the audit would be submitted to the society's council in about two weeks.

But it will not be released to the membership or the public, he stated.

Welch spoke out in one of his rare meetings with the press on a television news panel (NBC-TV Meet The Press).

The retired Belmont, Mass., candy manufacturer also refused to tell the panel the present membership of the organization. He defended such precautions as "necessary safeguards against giving too much information to Communists who might infiltrate the group."

Welch, whose organization has stirred up numerous political storms with accusations against high public figures including former President Dwight Eisenhower and Earl Warren, present Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, painted a picture of an America gradually losing ground everywhere to Communism—both domestically and internationally.

This, the society is attempting to halt, he said, and listed as its

main accomplishment "thousands" of showings of the film "Operation Abolition" and film strip, "Communism on the Map."

"Operation Abolition" was put together by the House Committee on Un-American Activities from films taken during a riotous student protest against a committee session in San Francisco.

Welch was questioned closely on charges he had called Eisenhower, while he was president, a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy.

As for the administration of President Kennedy he said, "I don't have a clear picture of what has happened in these three or four months yet." He admitted being critical of Kennedy when he was a senator.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
~~Boston Herald~~, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 5-2-61

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GEORGE E. MINOT

Title JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: SM-C

Page: 16

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DATE 7/15/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/jmw

April 26, 1961

Office of F.B.I.  
Boston, Mass.  
Dear Sirs:

I noticed this enclosed clipping in our Plymouth Old Colony Memorial newspaper and as I am at present reading the book "Masters of Deceit", by J. Edgar Hoover, I feel that [redacted] is mistaken on the number of Communist Party members in this country. If you could give me the correct number, I would appreciate it as I would like to answer his letter and give him the correct number from your files.

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[redacted] is a member of the Citizens for Peace Committee and I believe chairman.

I would also like the background on the film "Operation Abolition". I was very impressed at the danger we are in as a nation after seeing it but someone told me it was not factual. If you could possibly give me information on this film I would appreciate it. If it is a true film I plan to show it if I find there are enough people here interested in seeing it.

Yours truly,



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P.S. I would like the clipping back.

Katie 5/3/61  
mwf

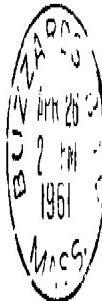
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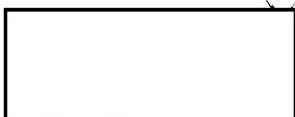


Office of the F.B.I.  
Boston, Mass.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/15/03 BY AVC 60290 BCE/BGS ymn

470 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston 10, Massachusetts  
May 3, 1961



*G. Radcl*

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b7c

Dear Sir:

Your letter dated April 26, 1961 has been received and the interest which prompted your communication is appreciated.

Please be advised that the files of the FBI are confidential and available for official use only. Accordingly, the FBI makes no evaluations or recommendations concerning the character or integrity of any organization, individual or publication. Our inability to furnish any comment should not be interpreted as implying we do or do not have information in our files concerning the subject of your inquiry.

The newspaper clipping which you forwarded with your letter is returned as requested.

Very truly yours,

L. L. LAUGHLIN  
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosure (1)

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(2)

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FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

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100-32899-159

*John Birch Slogan  
On Postal Meters*

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Post Office Department said Thursday it has tried to stop use of a private postal meter slogan by members of the John Birch Society.

The slogan, "This is a Republic, Not a Democracy—Let's Keep It That Way!" has been used by six members of the militantly conservative society who leased meters from the Pitney-Bowes Co.

Postmaster-General J. Edward Day told the House Post Office Committee he had asked Pitney-Bowes to get the users to stop and three had complied. The other three refused, he said.

Day said he planned no further action against the three. New regulations covering private meter companies are being drafted, he said, and the matter probably will be dealt with then.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 5-26-61  
Edition: Late City  
Author:  
Editor: George E. Minot  
Title JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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JULY 15 2003	
FBI - BOSTON	

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'Stench of Nazism'

## Birch Society Denounced By Pawtucket Clergyman

There is no room in America for a philosophy as autocratic as that of the Birch Society or its founder, Robert Welch, because it has the "familiar stench of Nazism, Fascism and Communism," the Rev. J. Roland Palangio, pastor of Park Place Congregational Church, Pawtucket, told his congregation yesterday.

He condemned Mr. Welch for his alleged statement that one-third of Protestant ministers help the Communist cause and that many use their pulpits to preach communism.

"I am not about to say that it is wholly impossible for a member of the clergy to become a Communist," he said. "Undoubtedly some of them have. But to say that one-third of the clergy are either Communists or dupes of that party is a blatant lie and an aid to the Communists."

Mr. Palangio said that FBI officials have repeatedly stressed that Communism has not achieved any substantial success in exerting influence or control over the nation's clergy and religious institutions.

The clergyman said Mr. Welch had issued a bulletin to society members urging them to take over the Parent-Teacher Associations, where they would run into a battle with determined leftists.

"I submit that this is hate peddling of the worst kind," he said. "There is no evidence anywhere that PTA groups are in the control of Communists. Yet the very tenor of Mr. Welch's language implies that the PTA must be rescued from Moscow at whatever cost and by whatever means."

He said that this was the use of a scare technique which is used by propagandists with great success, because of the gullibility of many people.

"Communism cannot succeed where there is a vital church, warmed by the fire of the gospels," he said. "It cannot succeed among people who are caught up in the love of God made real in their own lives."

XXXX The Providence Journal

The Evening Bulletin

Date: 5/26/61

Edition: AM

Author:

Editor: S. WELDON BROWN, III

Title:

BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character:

Page: 19

Bufile No.:

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DATE 01-30-2012

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## Birch Society Thrives On Secrecy, Veterans Told

PLYMOUTH, June 4—Sen. [can be the only consequence of Gale W. McGee (D-Wyo.) lev- the activities of the "phony ele a verbal six-shooter at the radical right-wingers."

John Birch Society and its Massachusetts founder Robert Welch in an address this afternoon at the closing session of the three-day encampment of the Massachusetts Jewish War Veterans and its auxiliary at the Mayflower Hotel here.

He said he seriously questioned the capabilities of a self-appointed spy-hunting group which can't tell former President Eisenhower from a Communist or the late Gen George C. Marshall from a traitor.

The former college history professor said it is imperative to smoke the Birch Society into the open as secrecy is its strength.

The senator saw significance in the fact that the known number of card-carrying Communists in the United States is now less than 10,000 while 20 years ago there were more than 100,000.

He said that the Birch Society philosophy leads to insane fear and national panic.

Boston: American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston: Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston: Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston: Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 6-5-61  
Edition: Morning  
Author:  
Editor: Victor O. Jones  
Title JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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Page: 3  
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Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

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DATE 01-30-2012

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[Redacted]  
May 29, 1961

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
470 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

I am a Civil Service employee and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Massachusetts Air National Guard. At present, I am seriously considering joining the John Birch Society of Belmont, Massachusetts. As far as I can determine, the objectives and methods of the society are consistent with Americanism and above reproach.

If you have any information to the contrary regarding the society's motives and methods, please advise.

Thank you very much.

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DATE 01-30-2012

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JUN 1 - 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

470 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston 10, Massachusetts  
June 2, 1961



b6  
b7c

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of May 29, 1961, and the interest which prompted your communication is greatly appreciated.

While I would like to be of assistance, the FBI is strictly an investigative agency and information in our files is confidential and available for official use only. The function of the FBI as a fact-gathering agency does not extend to furnishing evaluations or recommendations concerning the character or integrity of any organization, individual or publication.

This should not be construed to imply that we do or do not have information in our files concerning the subject of your inquiry.

Very truly yours,

L. L. LAUGHLIN  
Special Agent in Charge

100-32896 (John Birch Soc.)  
FIC:mai  
(2)

7-15-63 AUC 40220 BCE/bcg/ymw

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

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100-32894-164

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC

DATE: 6/14/61

FROM: [REDACTED] Liaison

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

SECURITY MATTER -

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On 6/9/61, an individual identifying himself as [REDACTED] telephonically contacted this office and inquired regarding a speech allegedly made by the Director of the FBI. According to [REDACTED] in the speech Mr. HOOVER used the quotation, "We are at war, we have been invaded, we are loosing". At this point [REDACTED] advised that he speaks on communism for the C.Y.O. in the Boston area.

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Upon inquiry by the writer, he advised that he read the above quotation in a magazine named "American Opinion", which is published in Belmont, Mass., by the John Birch Society. He further advised that he is a member of the John Birch Society and that he also speaks on communism for that organization. He was unable to state the date of the issue of the magazine in which the quotation appeared.

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[REDACTED] inquired as to whether this office could identify the speech in which the quotation was used, also when and where the speech was given. No encouragement was given to [REDACTED] regarding the location of this information due to his John Birch Society affiliation.

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[REDACTED] connection with the John Birch Society was admitted only after he was questioned concerning the magazine "American Opinion" and his reasons for wanting to lecture the Director's speech.

Boston Indices reveal 100-0-44272 for [REDACTED]

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1 - [REDACTED] 100-0-44272  
1 - JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY 100-32899\*

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# the ADL bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF BIRCH BIRTH

JUNE, 1961



Robert Welch speaking at a gathering in Dallas, Texas: "It is realistic to be fantastic."

A NEW YORK TIMES reporter who followed Robert Welch, founder and head of the right-wing John Birch Society, on a tour of the South noted that Mr. Welch tends to be touchy while he speaks. At one meeting, the reporter said, an attendant paced about, searching for a physician in the audience. Mr. Welch stopped his talk and asked why the man was "walking around like that." Before anyone could answer, Mr. Welch told his audience that this kind of distraction was a typical "dirty Communist trick."

It so happens, according to the Times reporter, the attendant was looking for a doctor.

That's the way it goes with 61-year-old Robert Welch, North Carolina-born, former vice president of the Welch Candy Company which his brother and company president James O. Welch has made clear, does not share his viewpoint. Robert Welch describes himself as the "hard-boiled, dictatorial, and dynamic boss" of the society he founded in Indianapolis in December, 1958 and which, in recent weeks, has commanded major national press attention. One of the maddening things about Welch is that he always appears serious and often appears intelligent. The individual words he utters in his dry fashion sound all right and sometimes whole phrases make sense. It is, perhaps, his mathematics that is off; in his world two and two sometimes add up to three, sometimes to five, virtually never to the expected.

Welch's stated purpose is fighting, stopping, and throwing back Communism in the United States which, he says, has virtually overwhelmed us. His methods,

Mr. Epstein is ADL's national director.

## DEMOCRACY AND THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

*Robert Welch, founder and "Americanist," preaches a philosophy and plan that run counter to American tradition, ideals -- and common sense.*

BY BENJAMIN R. EPSTEIN

beliefs, conclusions, and prejudices can only cause concern or anguish to those who believe that "the best revenge on your enemy is not to be like him." Perhaps the best known of Mr. Welch's living targets is former President Eisenhower whom he has attacked as a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy." If Eisenhower and the two presidents of the United States who preceded him are suspect and to be maligned, what chance has a local target of attack, a school teacher or librarian who is seen, say, reading a copy of the New Republic or even Time magazine (a publication that once referred to "The Politician," a Welch opus since largely withdrawn from circulation, as his *Mein Kampf*).

In fact, attacks on the reading of the New Republic and Time are not adequate examples of the depth of Birchitis. In Channelview, Texas, last month, a local member of the John Birch Society took out after a book discussing Plato that her

n found on a junior high school library self. "I can't help but believe that this Plato's ideas in 'The Republic' is one reason we have so many sex maniacs walking around," she said. She had good reason for expecting action on her protest; he had earlier attacked a book called "Living Biographies of Religious Leaders" and the local school superintendent at first said he would burn the book but later just removed it from the shelves.

IN HIS "Blue Book of the John Birch Society," a rambling 180-page volume of history, neo-history, poetry, and planning-head-a transcript of the two-day lecture he gave at the founding session—founder Welch (the title is self-designed and always used with the capital I) is dazzlingly iconoclastic:

"The John Birch Society is to be a monolithic body. A republican form of government of organization has many attractions, and advantages, funds certain

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DATE 01-30-2012

1961

favorable conditions. But under less happy circumstances it lends itself too readily to infiltration, distortion, and disruption. And democracy, of course, in government or organizations, as the Greeks and Romans both found out, and as I believe every man in this room clearly recognized—democracy is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud . . . The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels . . ."

There is no telling exactly how many people in the United States subscribe to this theory and type of organization. The John Birch Society has been semi-secret and its reliance on the use of front groups is acknowledged by the Founder. Mr. Welch declines to give the numerical strength or financial organization of the Society on the grounds that "no organization does." (Many do.) However, one of several U.S. congressmen-members says that it has about 60,000 men and women nationally with California and Texas as relatively hot-beds of Birchitis. Dues are \$24 a year for men, \$12 for women. Less government and no income taxes are among the Society's favorite themes in its efforts to stop Communism. The campaigns have many pet targets. A constant one is Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren. The Birch Society is all out for his impeachment. Welch doesn't like him, he says, because Warren "has taken the lead in converting this country to democracy." Civil rights campaigns are also part of the Communist conspiracy, Welch believes. In "The White Book of the John Birch Society for 1960," a collection of the Society's monthly bulletins, Welch warns that much of the Protestant clergy is a menace to America: "For as long as your church gives moral and financial support to the National Council of Churches, as the Council is run today, you are helping the enemy."

The enemy is everywhere. Fluoridation of water is a plot; so too is legislation calling for registration of guns. "As the Communists get ever nearer to taking us over . . . the pressure for this firearms legislation grows stronger," Welch says, calling for opposition to "these long-range pro-Communist plans to deprive us of weapons, to whatever extent they can." The conventional notion, that registration of guns helps keep them out of the hands of children or criminals, never seems to have occurred to him.

At his 1958 inner-circle session in Indi-



Welch in Atlanta

apolis, Welch made clear that he had little confidence in American political leaders. "Put not your faith in politicians," he repeated, but he held out some hope by saying "we shall have to use politicians, support politicians, create politicians . . ." Welch called Richard Nixon "one of the ablest, shrewdest, most disingenuous and slippery politicians" on the American scene. "I think Nixon could become a very patriotic anti-Communist if we could create circumstances in which it would be smart politics to be one," he said of a man whose career, for a decade, has had as its *leit motif* his professional and personal war on Communism. Welch dismisses Nelson Rockefeller as being committed to making the United States part of a "one-world socialist government." A year before the 1960 election, Welch referred to John F. Kennedy as "Reuther's stooge." Since January 20, surprisingly, Welch has called for a continuation of the post-inaugural "honeymoon." Apparently—he has not yet really accepted Kennedy as President of the United States; he has not, to date, placed him alongside Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower as a Communist tool or agent.

Without going into all of Welch's bogies, it should be noted that he is particularly upset by U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, "one of the most contemptible agents of the Kremlin ever supported by the American taxpayers."

Welch easily explains away the violent denunciations of Hammarskjold by Khrushchev and other Communists. He says that Communists attack Hammarskjold just so that Americans will come to his defense and fight to retain him—which is precisely what the Communists really want. This is part of Mr. Welch's "principle of reversal"—things are the opposite of what they seem. Does this sound fantastic? Welch takes care of such objections midway through his "Blue Book." "Everything I am talking is fantastic. We are living in fantastic times and a fantastic situation . . . we are in circumstances where it is *realistic* to be *fantastic*." This is as good an explanation as any as to why an organization which is dedicated to the abolition of foreign aid, the defense program, the income tax, civil rights campaigns, and many democratic institutions also thinks it is defending America and fighting Communism.

IT IS EASY to dismiss Welch by saying that he "quite literally wants to repeal the twentieth century" (Barbara Bush, United Press International), or that his organization is merely one of the "noisy and reckless right-wing groups . . . busy pounding divisive wedges into American society" (*America*, the Catholic weekly) or that "they're ridiculous and I don't think anybody should pay much attention to them" (Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy).

Still, Mr. Welch has amassed much attention and some following. He seems to know where he's going. The Blue Book sets forth a scheme for a unique and somewhat chilling-sounding organization with Chapter Leaders, Coordinators, and Major Coordinators (all appointed by The Founder). After telling how Communists have successfully used front groups, he suggests that Birch members can organize a "Committee to Investigate Communist Influences at Vassar College" and the like to "keep this whole front operation from being so one-sided . . . we can use the noise and turmoil to help wake up a lot of people to the fact that there is a deadly fight going on."

He also has a fine sense of sales organization and know-how. The Society's bulletins are filled with complete, precise instructions about letter-writing and mem-

Continued on page 6

## the *AD* bulletin

515 Madison Ave., New York 22

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# THE EICHMANN TRIAL: What Israel's Church Leaders Say

*A rabbi's interviews with Christian clergymen reveal sympathy and understanding of Israel.*



Rabbi Arthur Gilbert, director of ADL's department of interreligious cooperation, recently attended a World Pentecostal Church Conference in Jerusalem. While there, he also interviewed leaders of Israel's Christian clergy on their reactions to the Eichmann trial now underway.

The largest of Israel's Christian groups is the Greek Catholic Church. In communion with Rome, it follows Eastern liturgical rites. Protestant denominations include the Greek Orthodox, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Anglican, and Baptist communities. The largest Protestant church in Israel associated with the United States is supported by the Southern Baptist Convention.

These are the responses given to Rabbi Gilbert by six of Israel's leading Christian clergymen. Among the questions asked of each man was: "What do you think should be done with Eichmann if the court finds him guilty?"

**Rev. William L. Hull**, Pentecostal clergyman in Jerusalem since 1935:

"Israel has done the right thing by bringing Eichmann to trial. It is not just a question of the man himself, awful as his deeds were . . . Much more awful is the fact that the world could produce such a man and that the world would stand by—even the Christian world—while these deeds were being done . . . The world has failed it such things could happen in the Twentieth Century."

**If proven guilty?** "I would say that nothing short of a death sentence could be justified in view of the law in this Western world. The main problem I would think would be the disposition of his body after the man has been hung. Lest he be considered a martyr I would suggest that his body be cremated and scattered in the Mediterranean never to be gathered again."

**Rev. Dr. Robert J. Lindsey**, Chairman of the Baptist Convention of Israel and resident of Israel since 1945:

"It seems to me that it is elemental justice that Eichmann be tried by the people closely related to those who suffered so much at his hands . . . Such enormous crimes should be noted by historians and people generally so that they will know something of the terrible consequences of wrong attitudes toward whole races and whole groups of people."

**If proven guilty?** "There is nothing that can be done to Eichmann except to bring him to the kind of justice the Israel law provides. I am not certain that Israel law would demand

absolutely the death penalty. It is very possible a life sentence could be given."

**Rev. Tom Gibson**, St. Andrews Memorial Presbyterian Church:

"I am sorry that the trial had to take place here in Israel . . . I believe it is having a disturbing effect amongst Jews themselves, who are having all the horror of the persecution reawakened. I believe this is having a disturbing effect. Also, certain countries may have some reaction against Jewry because of the trial. But this is something that had to take place. We have not yet fully realized the horror of what was done in the occupied countries during the war. We must face the fact that for the Jews this was done in the name of Christianity as these countries were at least nominally Christian . . . We must realize our responsibility for it and make up our minds that such a holocaust shall never happen again."

**If proven guilty?** "I hope and pray that mercy will be shown Eichmann. This will prevent anyone from charging the Jewish people with being vengeful and may prevent hostile reaction. On the other hand, it may bring a charge of weakness against them. It is a very difficult problem for the Jewish people. One can only sympathize with them."

**Canon Hugh Jones** of the St. George (Anglican) Cathedral, Jerusalem:

"A man can get out of his depths morally and spiritually. This Eichmann trial has revealed that certain in a certain section of it did get out of its depths. So great were the evils and atrocities committed that humankind speaking there can be no forgetting, no forgiveness and no atonement. But this is a rather tragic utterance because it can mean that evil has established a victory on a permanent level in a certain period in history."

**If proven guilty?** "Any punishment meted out to Eichmann cannot possibly make any change to the millions of people whom he was instrumental in putting to death. Humanly speaking there is no punishment that is severe

enough. But that is of secondary importance. One always hopes that no human being will ever go beyond the point of repentance. We pray that there may result even within this man, whose crimes have reached dimensions never before reached in history some sign of his own sense of guilt and real contrition."

**Abbot Leo Rudloff**, OSB, Abbot of the Roman Catholic Dormition on Mt. Zion, resident of Israel since 1949:

"I have talked to several people who have been present at the trial. They are all deeply impressed by the dignity, objectivity, calmness of the court session and the trial. I have always been convinced that any one—Eichmann included—would receive a fair trial in Israel. His conviction has been borne out . . . Some people told me before the trial that it was a mistake. Now they say, 'Now I see it is a good thing.' A good thing from this point of view; it is an invitation for all of us to examine our own conscience. It is a question of responsibility; when you hear again about these things, and hear them in detail, you ask yourself did you do everything in your power that you could have done in those days. And maybe you didn't."

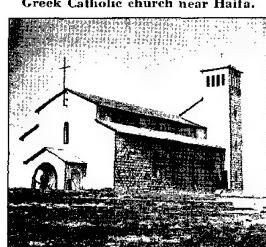
**If proven guilty?** "Human justice requires the death penalty. We are dealing here not with the murder of one man, but the murder of six million or more . . . It would stir up the world, however, in a very beneficial way if some other solution could be found."

**Archbishop George Hakim**, Greek Catholic Bishop of Acre, Haifa, Nazareth and all Galilee. (All members of the Greek Catholic Church in Israel are Arabs):

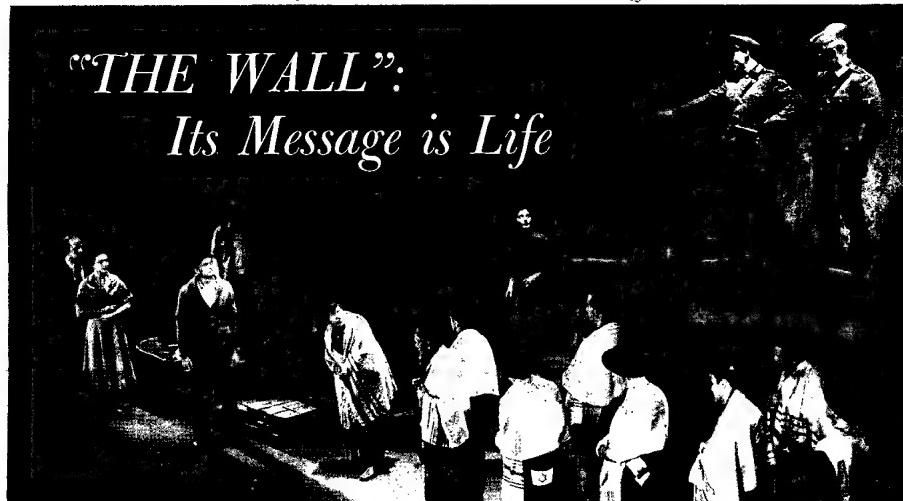
"This trial is a most fascinating experience for those of us living in Israel . . . We have heard about the (Nazi persecution). We have read a lot about it. But we never realized how appalling were these atrocious that happened to the Jews. Our Arab people who are following this trial find it impossible to believe that such things could happen. The trial has helped us to understand how Israel and why Israel was created."

**If proven guilty?** "Our first reaction would be to leave the judgment in the hands of God. The Holy Scripture in its entirety would direct us in that fashion. But this is not what is done humanly. When a man is found guilty, he is punished. I think Israel should give him a life sentence and then send him back to Germany where again he ought to be put on trial and here punished. Israel should not use the authority that it has to kill for exceptional cases . . . As a Christian I would say we should pardon and ask clemency."

"It has been very gratifying to see that the death sentence has not yet been given in Israel. The Arabs are very happy with the courts in Israel. We know that in any sphere the court has rendered justice to Arabs and Jews alike."



# "THE WALL": Its Message is Life



WHEN "The Wall" went into production, I braced myself for a series of strange experiences. For months, friends in the theatre had been preparing me. There is nothing like a first play to bring on a deluge of warnings. I was all prepared to weather the classic stage catastrophes: rehearsal feuds, out-of-town hysterics, missing props, forgotten lines, opening-night panic.

But I found myself plunged into a completely unexpected situation. And it had little to do with the theatre. In my innocence, I imagined that a play was a play, whatever its theme. I soon discovered that in the case of "The Wall," it was not quite so simple. In telling the story of the Warsaw Ghetto, based on the novel by John Hersey, I had unwittingly fashioned a mirror for certain painful, conflicting and half-hidden emotions in many Americans, and particularly American Jews.

The first small signals began to flicker even before my play opened. I found myself confronting complete strangers who would abruptly announce, "I'm not going to see your play." Sometimes this was murmured embarrassedly, sometimes stated with defensive belligerence, or apologetically, or with a wan sigh. Since they had no way of knowing yet whether what I had written was good, bad, or

*An author studies reactions to his play and concludes that many Americans are unaware of the heroism of the Jewish fight for survival under the Nazis.*

By MILLARD LAMPELL

indifferent, it struck me as a bit odd that they had already decided. Most people who are not interested in going to a play do not feel driven to make such an intense point of it. But at the time I did—not grasp any special deep significance, and I soon forgot it. We were busy casting, and I had other things on my mind.

It was only after we opened that those first warning signs came flooding back to me. We got enough rave reviews from important critics to make us feel that we would be settling down to a long run. And yet we found ourselves barely scraping by, always precariously close to closing. We managed to eke out five months, the last eight weeks chiefly due to sacrificed royalties, stern economies, loyalty, crazy hope, and the fierce support of Mrs. Isaac Stern, who rallied patron angels.

NOTHING about "The Wall" ran according to form. A playwright with a hit can count on getting four or five letters a week. I received from ten to thirty—at least half of them from people

who had not seen my play. In addition, I kept meeting people, literally hundreds of them, who felt impelled to explain gropingly why they "couldn't bear to see it." Almost everyone who hadn't gone had already written the play inside his own head. They were sure that it was a grim, unrelieved tale of horror. As one gentleman from Scarsdale put it: "Why pay \$6.60 to read my own obituary notice?"

In vain, I tried to protest that I had written a play about life, not death. I explained that I had been drawn to the story of the Warsaw Ghetto precisely because it was a symbol of man's astonishing ability to go on planning, working, resisting under the most barbaric conditions, a symbol of the human capacity to endure. I insisted doggedly that my play—and any true picture of the Warsaw Ghetto—included faith, love, ingenuity, audacity, yes, and humor. But my protests were useless. Those who had not seen the play had it engraved in their minds as a bleak tale of victims.

Bit by bit, it became clear to me that

Mr. Lampell's play, "The Wall," based on the John Hersey novel, was a highlight of the 1960-61 theatrical season. All photographs used here are from the Broadway production.

these people were not discussing "The Wall" at all. The theme of the play had tripped some hidden trigger, releasing an explosion of emotions regarding the role played by the Jews in Hitler's Europe.

True, my play was unlike certain popular dramatic works that had touched the same subject. It had its tender moments, but it was not like "The Diary of Anne Frank", a delicate and muted play. Nor was it like "Exodus", an adventure that ended with a stirring triumph. It dealt with an event inextricably dyed by the colors of tragedy. Half a million Jews were slaughtered in Warsaw. Of the six hundred who joined the fighters, only fourteen survived.

And yet "The Wall" was a story of courage and hope, woven with a thread of victory. But few seemed prepared to risk the chance of finding that spirit in it.

And so I found myself confronted with a spectrum of anxieties, confused and shame-faced confessions.

Oh, not from the children. Their reactions were direct and heartening. Close to fifty thousand students came, a wide cross-section, brought in on low-priced



tickets by special arrangement with the Board of Education. They were our finest audience. Many of them were seeing living theatre for the first time, and they trooped to their seats noisily, rustling candy wrappers. But by the end of the first scene they sat completely enthralled. They wept, cheered, gasped with anger, fell hushed, and in the end, applauded wildly.

Often, after the performance, I met with a group of them. The most frequent question was, "Did this really happen, or was it only made up?"

Most of those under eighteen had come with only the vaguest notion of who Hitler was. Few of them had ever heard of the Warsaw Ghetto. During the early scenes, it was common to hear young girls greet the first appearance of a handsome German soldier with admiring titters. "He's cute." But two hours later, when, with a pistol shot that signalled the uprising, Rachel Apt killed that same soldier, he had become a Nazi as seen through eyes of Warsaw's Jews, and the

school girls burst into cheers. For them, some profound part of the experience of a decade had been compressed into a single evening.

"My teacher explained what the play was about before we went," a junior high school student named Eileen Kilty wrote to me from Forest Hills, "—but I guess I didn't pay much attention. It was very important for me to learn what Hitler really did to the Jews, and what it took for them to fight back."

Having no prearranged emotions, the children simply lived the play.

After them, surprisingly, our most appreciative audiences were those who had actually experienced the nightmare. The survivors of the ghettos and concentration camps were sharply watchful for accuracy, but deeply involved. One of the most moving letters came from a doctor who now lives in Queens:

"As one who was in Warsaw under the Germans, and lost my whole family, I write to thank you for reclaiming my childhood from the shadows. I kept wanting to cry out, 'Yes, yes, that's it, that's how it was.' That was my house, my street, those were my friends. I knew them all." It was signed with his name, and under it, "a living particle saved from the ashes."

But with adults born and raised in America, reactions were more tangled.

Quite soon after opening night, we became aware that many of those we thought might be especially interested in the theme—Jews—were avoiding the play. Even the customary Jewish theatre-goers, always a crucial part of the Broadway audience, were staying away.

Of all the plays that opened in the fall season of '61, only one had no advance bookings bought out by the important Jewish organizations—"The Wall." After awhile, when we had invited the rabbis, a few small theatre parties for synagogue groups trickled in. That was all.

Why? Granted, the play was not a musical or a smash comedy. But organizations were buying dramas like "Face Of A Hero" and even flops like "Julia, Jake and Uncle Joe." London, Amsterdam, Munich, Warsaw, Tel Aviv, Buenos Aires had swiftly taken the play for production. Clearly, those countries thought it had an excellent chance of success. Yet in New York, we staggered along on the verge of closing.

What was it?

It is a truism of the Broadway theatre that no play can run without the Jewish audience. And that was precisely what we were lacking. Slowly, through the months, I pieced together the mosaic of emotional defensiveness. Until I became convinced that a significant number of Jews were frightened, guilty, ashamed of what they thought was the role of their brothers in Nazi Europe.

They saw the European Jews of the Hitler era as a long, ragged line of victims strolling silently to their doom. To all so many Americans, the words "Warsaw ghetto" meant only death.

And yet the spirit of the Warsaw Ghetto—what gives that hour its striking ache in history—is that it was a time when man sowed his genius for resisting death.

I became aware that many American Jews are troubled by the Hitler years because they cannot help envisioning how they would have acted in the face of a similar barbarism. They cringe from identifying with the Jews of Europe (or anyone) help identifying and find it agonizing because they see them all as paralyzed and helpless victims.

It is true that millions went to death without resistance. But it is also true—and of this, many American Jews seem still unaware—that thousands upon thousands who were marked as victims defied fate, and fought back defiantly.

Continued on page 6



## THE WALL

Continued from page 5

In the wave of books and articles about Hitler, Eichmann, Auschwitz and Dachau, virtually nothing has appeared in the English language telling the story of the Jewish resistance.

Most Americans do not know, for example, that Warsaw was only one of many ghettos with a fighting Jewish underground. There was resistance in Kovno and in Bialystok, in Grodno and in Lodz, in Cracow, Lubin, Czenstochow. In dozens of Nazi ghettos, Jews set up secret schools, hospitals and libraries, sent out liaison couriers (most of them women), arranged rescues and escapes, smuggled in arms, harassed the enemy with sniper fire and gasoline bottle grenades.

It is impossible to detail here the complete story. But the facts, documents and first-hand stories have been painstakingly collected. They tell of Dr. Yehzekel Atlas, the young physician who led a Jewish partisan band across the forests of the Slonim district in western White Russia, derailing trains, dynamiting bridges, and finally leading a successful attack on the German garrison at Dereczyn.

They tell of *Matsok*, the underground

group in the Kovno ghetto, battling the Nazis, and finally escaping the burning streets and walking 150 kilometers through snow-drifted open country to resume fighting in the Rudnicki woods.

The medical resistance, organized Jewish physicians in occupied France, and in Yugoslavia, Hungary and Poland could alone make up a volume.

And the impeccable bravery of Rabbi Yehoshua Moshe Aronsohn, protected by Jewish fellow-prisoners in Buchenwald and Theresienstadt concentration camps while he compiled his secret diary, using Bible passages as code.

In the savage winter countryside of Lithuania, 64 Jews escaped from the dread Nazi prison, the Ninth Fort, making their way through a steel door and over a fourteen-foot wall, with nothing but a penknife, a small hand-drill, and a rope ladder.

In the death camps of both Treblinka and Auschwitz, there were revolts in which the inmates, with Jews playing a leading part, turned on their SS guards and smashed the ovens.

At Auschwitz, under the very noses of the Nazis, more than 300 Jews helped to plan the uprising. They stole explosives from the Krupp Union Arms factory

(where they worked as slave laborers), spiriting them back into camp in food dishes with false bottoms. They stole and distributed food and medicines, and helped to operate a clandestine radio transmitter which sent the first reports of concentration camp daily life to the BBC.

And so it goes, on and on. Facts and statistics on the Jewish resistance that flamed across Europe.

But for us in America, the records are lost in a queer anonymity. We continue to see the Jews of Hitler's Europe solely as unprotesting victims. And in doing so, we malign not only the fighters, but the human race and its highest potential.

So I wrote a drama. In my innocence, I thought that a play was a play. I had something to say, I wanted to teach. But in the end, I learned.

I learned that Jews have too easy a taste for tragedy. We underestimate our own capacity. We underestimate the capacity of man.

Our brothers who suffered had more to say to us than what is written on the gravestones and the monuments. They also said: the only answer to persecution is resistance. The only answer to death is more life.

## BIRCH SOCIETY

Continued from page 2

bership campaigns, as well as solid suggestions for using all modern techniques of persuasion, coercion and conclusion-jumping. No device is to be ignored in the fight. The Welch bulletin for November, 1960 announces that "all envelopes going through our Pitney-Bowes mailing machine will bear this printed slogan:

This is a Republic not a Democracy—  
Let's keep it that way."

This slogan is also available in gummed labels from Society headquarters in Belmont, Massachusetts (for people who don't have access to postage meters) and members are further advised to have it reproduced on rubber stamps.

THE ANTI-DEFAMATION League would like to follow the Attorney General's advice and ignore the John Birch Society completely. But Welch's glib dismissal of democracy arrests us; it cannot be ignored.

When Welch, in his "Blue Book," called democracy "a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagogery, and a perennial fraud," he anticipated the reaction and added a footnote:

"Our liberal critics would have you believe that this statement, for an American, is practically heresy. This is because these same liberals have been working so long and so hard to convert our republic into a democracy, and to make the American people believe that it is supposed to be a democracy.

Nothing could be further from the truth than that insidiously planted premise. Our founding fathers knew a great deal about history and government . . . They visibly spurned a democracy as probably the worst of all forms of government . . ."

If there is an iota of reason to all this, the ADL has been operating under some wild misapprehensions since its founding in 1913. So we've checked back briefly, into American as well as ADL's own history, to see how we can reconcile matters.

We talk about democracy in virtually all our materials and programs. At the entrance to the national ADL office in New York appears the phrase: "To preserve and translate into greater effectiveness the ideals of American democracy." We've assumed that all Americans, except for outright bigots, shared our belief in democracy, at least in an abstract way. This belief (or error) has been bolstered in a hundred ways. For example, for the past thirteen years, the League has been presenting its annual America's Democratic Legacy award to men and women who have "contributed to the enrichment of our democratic heritage." Have we, and all the award recipients and participants in these ADL ceremonies, been misguided in thinking that America and democracy have something in common?

We've tried to cite authorities who agree with us about democracy and whose credentials will be accepted by Welch. It isn't easy. In 1953, the ADL award was accepted, at a memorable "Dinner with

the President," by Dwight Eisenhower who thus presumably shares our belief in American democracy. But the former President, according to Welch, is a tool of Communist conspiracy so his beliefs can't be counted. (FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover attended this affair dedicated to democracy; this makes him party to "the perennial fraud.") Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt attended too but we hesitate even to mention her name; by Birch Society standards she is just the widow of still another "tool of the Communists."

THE ADL AWARD for democratic achievement went to Harry Truman in 1949. That doesn't help either; according to "The Politician," "Truman was used by the Communists, with his knowledge and acquiescence . . ." (There are distinctions here; Roosevelt and Truman were "used" by the Communists while, in the case of Eisenhower, "the Communists have one of their own actually in the Presidency.")

We'll have to go further back to prove anything. Take Woodrow Wilson. He was quick to use such phrases as "I believe in democracy because it releases the energies of every human being," or the better known, "The world must be made safe for democracy." But a reading of Welch rules out Wilson as a character witness for democracy; he is suspect because he strengthened central government, therefore, was a socialist and, in the Welch

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# FOLLIES OF PREJUDICE

*Resort discrimination is always cruel  
-- and sometimes just plain silly.*

One of ADL's latest publications is "Two Seasons—Two Faces." Subtitled "Facts You Should Know When Arranging For Your Convention," the pamphlet discusses resort discrimination and explains that many hotels welcome everyone when booking conventions off-season, then blatantly discriminate against Jewish guests in season. It also points up, in words and drawings, some of the irony and humor inherent in the situation of the hotel manager who tries --against all logic--to maintain a policy of "No Jews Allowed."

WHILE there are some hotels in Canada and Europe which bar Jewish guests, the United States seems to suffer from a kind of international pre-eminence in the field of hotel bigotry. It was back at the turn of the century when the Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga Springs was guilty of the first known act of discrimination against a Jewish guest. As the practice spread, few voices were raised in protest, those of Jews least of all. They dismissed hotel discrimination as a petty annoyance and expressed their indifference with "I don't want to go where I'm not wanted."

Today, however, thinking Americans recognize that this practice is permeated with evil undertones. Resort owners who inflict their personal prejudices upon Americans of the Jewish faith give them a stigma of second-class citizenship. Any area of life in which religious discrimination is permitted to flourish unopposed and unchallenged is a spawning ground for other kinds of discrimination. It does violence to morality and to American traditions of equality.

It does violence to common sense, too. For, after all, how do you tell a Jew?

By name? Sometimes. But there are people of Jewish faith in every civilized country in the world; their names, like all names, have slowly been assimilated and changed to conform with the speech patterns of each particular country.

By appearance? Impossible. Jews, like all Americans, come in every conceivable coloration and conformation; they are fair and dark, short and tall, lean and fat.

This creates a very serious problem for the intolerant innkeeper. In playing it safe, many of these resort owners have antagonized worthy Christian patrons who, unaware that such an odious situation even existed, have been appalled

and repelled at the ignominy to which they were mistakenly subjected.

Because of his name, the late George M. Cohan was often mistaken for a Jew. When he asked for accommodations at a resort hotel, he was asked if he were Jewish—and Cohan responded: "We both made a mistake. You thought I was a Jew and I thought you were a gentleman."

IT WORKS in reverse, too. Many an American of Jewish faith has been astounded to learn that a resort at which he has spent an enjoyable vacation discriminates against Jews.

But there are, of course, the thousands of cases in which other citizens have knowingly entered a hotel and been arrantly rebuffed because of their religious convictions.

In Sea Island, Georgia, is one of the best-known hotels in the South—The Cloister. It received attention in the press some time ago when the late Vice President Barkley and his wife visited there for several days.

Shortly after this news appeared, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Sabin of Atlanta, Georgia, were driving together with their grown children near Sea Island. They decided that it might be a pleasant and memorable experience to have their lunch at the hotel—to dine in the same room where the Vice President of the United States had dined.

Mr. Sabin found that it was necessary to register at the desk before entering the dining room. The clerk looked at his name and then at Mr. Sabin. He turned the card over, wrote "Gentile?" and pushed it back.

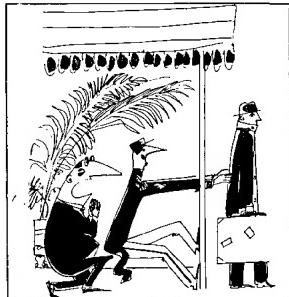
Mr. Sabin, to be sure, bore himself as a gentleman; but his reply would reveal what personal path he followed to God. On that reply depended whether Mr. Sabin would be permitted to eat in a public inn in the United States.

Standing next to Mr. Sabin, watching in shocked silence, was his son-in-law, a soldier in World War II, and a veteran of the campaign in Korea. They looked at each other, and then Mr. Sabin shook his head in the negative.

The clerk put the pen back on the register. "I'm sorry," he said, "this hotel is for Christians only."



"Well, which is it? King James? Douay? Or Jewish Publication Society?"



"Excuse me, sir, now that we definitely know you're our kind — why do you want to leave? Aren't we your kind?'"



"Heavens! What have we been doing! According to the Hotel Edition of the Almanac of Accepted American Names, 'Smith' is sometimes a Jewish name."

## BIRCH SOCIETY

Continued from page 6

scheme of things, a Communist.

At the moment, Welch has not mentioned Webster's New International Dictionary (Second Edition, Unabridged) as a conscious or unconscious agent of anything. This dictionary, which from here on out may be in trouble, describes democracy as:

"Government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is retained by the people and exercised either directly or indirectly through a system of representation and delegated authority periodically renewed, as in a constitutional representative government or republic . . . In modern representative democracies—such as the United States—the governing body, that is the electorate, is a minority of the total population, but the principle on which the government is based is popular sovereignty."

Webster, used by colleges and libraries throughout the nation, flatly refers to the United States as a "representative democracy." Maybe someone's been tinkering with the dictionary and it isn't acceptable to "Americanists" (Welch's term for people who believe as he does). Let's look elsewhere.

Welch apparently believes in borrowing some of the techniques of the Communists—such as front groups—in the effort to stop them. Democracy is "an organization for the systematic use of violence by one class against another," wrote Nikolai Lenin, an acknowledged agent of Communism, in his "The State and the Revolution," published in 1917. This doesn't help since Lenin seems to have as much distaste for democracy as Welch does. (The bedfellows are bizarre but no inference is intended.)

COMING BACK to American history, we find innumerable strong convictions about democracy. The abolitionist, Theodore Parker, said that democracy is "government of all the people, by all the people, for all the people; of course, a government of the principles of eternal justice, the unchanging law of God; for shortness sake, I will call it the idea of freedom." He said this in a speech called, "The American Idea," so he must have had America in mind. But Parker believed in freeing the slaves—a civil rights campaign of sorts—and his persistent reference to "the people" sounds a little socialist; Parker hardly qualifies as an "Americanist." Lincoln, who heard Parker give this speech and was influenced by it, used some of its phraseology in his Gettysburg address. Lincoln was another man given to easy use of the word "democracy" as in his statement: "As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy." But Lincoln undertook and consummated

a civil rights campaign; he freed the slaves. That lets him out as an "Americanist."

Perhaps this points up the problem. Democracy is more of an idea or spirit than a formal way to describe the structure of government. "Republic" has a more precise meaning when applied to governmental structure. A republic (insidious Webster again) is:

"a state in which the sovereign power resides in a certain body of the people (*the electorate*), and is exercised by representatives elected by and responsible to them."

Mr. Welch says that the United States is a constitutional republic and not a democracy. But the terms are neither contradictory nor, necessarily, related. Great Britain, a constitutional monarchy, is also a democracy. The Union of Socialist Soviet Republics operates under a constitution and it is made up of republics but to describe the USSR as a group of constitutional republics is meaningless. A conspicuous feature of the USSR—the feature that makes it a threat and an enemy—happens to be its lack of democracy, and the absence of freedom of movement and expression for its people.

If Mr. Welch believes that the United States cannot be a democracy because the word is not explicitly mentioned in its Constitution, he might as easily conclude that the United States should not be devoted to free enterprise either. Like democracy, free enterprise is an idea or prevailing spirit, not explicitly guaranteed by the Constitution, but normally understood as being basic to the course of American history and development.

Welch makes frequent references to the Founding Fathers and, we assume, Thomas Jefferson is not yet suspect. Webster defines a democrat as "an adherent or advocate of democracy," and Jefferson may now be damned by Welch. In 1816 he wrote in a letter to Dupont de Nemours: "We of the United States are constitutionally and conscientiously democrats." Besides, Jefferson was part of a whole gang of men who should be checked-out by Welch for their tendencies, subversive-wise. Those fellows who hammered out a document starting suspiciously, with the words, "We, the people . . ."

## THIS MONTH

JUNE

S M T W T F S

### Honors

HENRY EDWARD SCHULTZ, ADL's national chairman, was this month awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities by West Virginia State College. The degree was given for "outstanding contributions leading to the elimination of religious and race prejudices in the United



States" College President William J. L. Wallace (left) reads the citation as the degree is conferred on Mr. Schultz. The League's national chairman since 1952, Mr. Schultz is a member of the Board of Higher Education of New York City, an attorney, and expert on libel law and problems of civil rights and censorship . . . RALPH LAZARUS of Cincinnati, a member of ADL's national commission, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Miami. Mr. Lazarus is president of Federated Department Stores . . . DR. JACOB GOLDMAN, a member of ADL's Michigan Regional Board, this month received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Yeshiva University in New York. Dr. Goldman, who lives in Oak Park, Michigan, is associate director of the Ford Motor Company Science Laboratories . . .

### Correction

THE ARTICLE, "The Trouble with Released Time," which appeared in the May 1961 ADL BULLETIN, was written by H. J. Ault, a member of ADL's Pacific Southwest Region Board, and Harvey B. Schechter, ADL staff member. Unfortunately, you couldn't tell that fact by reading last month's BULLETIN! Mr. Ault's name was inadvertently dropped from the by-line. The article was about a study of educators' attitudes toward released time in the Pasadena, California, public schools. Mr. Ault, who lives in Pasadena and has had a long and active interest in this subject and schools generally, deserves better. Our apologies.

Support ADL — Give to and work for the JOINT DEFENSE APPEAL

Entered as 2nd class matter.  
115 Madison Ave., New York 22  
The ADL Bulletin

## Birch Group Will List 'Comsymps'

NEW YORK (AP)—The John Birch Society in its monthly bulletin, Thursday announced plans to compile and publish a list of leading Americans whom it considers Communist sympathizers.

The article in the publication of the right-wing, anti-Communist group called on its members to help build up "the most complete and most accurate files in America on the leading Comsymps (Communist sympathizers), socialists and liberals."

The publication defined such individuals as "those who are trying to change the economic and political structure of this country so that it could be completely merged with Soviet Russia in a one-world socialist government."

"These are files that we are going to need before we can ever give the whole truth—or enough of it to save our country—to the American people," it added.

The bulletin gave details on how the information was to be collected and promised that references would be checked and carefully evaluated before the material was used in any publication.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christians Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
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THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

July 5, 1961

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/16/03 BY AUC

b2 b7c/DCG/ymw

Founder

ROBERT WELCH

The Council

N. E. ADAMSON, JR.

THOMAS J. ANDERSON

T. COLEMAN ANDREWS

SPIRULINE BRADEN

LAWRENCE E. BUNKER

F. GANO CHANCE

STILLWELL J. CONNER

RALPH E. DAVIS

S. M. DRASKOVICH

REV. RICHARD GINDER

WM. J. GREDE\*

A. G. HEINSOHN, JR.\*

GRANVILLE F. KNIGHT

FRED C. KOCH\*

ALFRED KOHLBERG\*

CLARENCE MANION\*

FRANK E. MASLAND, JR.

N. FLOYD McGOWIN

W. B. McMILLAN

REVIL P. OLIVER

COLA G. PARKER

M. T. PHIEPS

LOUIS ROTHENBURG

J. NELSON SHERFORD

JAMES SIMPSON, JR.\*

ROBERT W. STODDARD\*

CHARLES B. STONE, III

PAUL H. TALBERT

\*Executive Committee

+Deceased

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The members of the Executive Committee of The John Birch Society are designated by asterisks on this letterhead, and they are briefly identified as to business or professional connections and standing on two pages near the end of the enclosed brochure.

These five men and the writer respectfully request an interview with you. The subject we wish to discuss has nothing directly to do with any of the charges made against The John Birch Society, or any of the charges reported to have been made by it or by myself personally, but is still a matter which we consider to be of great importance to our country. It is also a subject in which -- although it involves no secrets of any kind -- we believe you will be interested.

We are, of course, willing to adjust our time to yours, and to have as many of the small group present to keep the appointment, as possible, at any time you might designate. But since these men do come from various parts of the country, and are themselves all extremely busy, and all wish very much to be in on this discussion, and it is so hard to find a time when one or more of them do not have unbreakable conflicts, I hope it will seem in order for me to mention that the group is scheduled to get together on Saturday, July 29, anyway. And while we now plan to meet that day in Chicago, we should be very glad instead to meet in Washington or New York, or anywhere that might be most convenient for yourself, if you would be willing to spare the time to meet with us or have us meet with you at your office or at any place you say, for the one to two hours which we think might be required.

If Saturday, July 29 is not suitable for yourself, we shall be glad to have you suggest any other time and place, as soon thereafter as may be most convenient for yourself. And hoping that the appointment may be granted, we shall be looking forward very much to seeing you at the time and place on which you decide.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 11 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

RW:tl

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

Robert Welch

b6

b7c

410 32899-168

July 10, 1961

Mr. Robert Welch  
The John Birch Society, Incorporated  
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Welch:

I have received your letter of July 5 regarding the desire of the members of the Executive Committee of The John Birch Society to meet with me. I appreciate your kindness in providing me with a copy of the booklet concerning your organization.

Unfortunately, due to previously scheduled commitments and the pressure of official business, it will not be possible for me to accede to your request. I am very sorry this situation exists, but I am sure you will understand my position.

If you, or any of the other members of your Executive Committee, have information which you believe would be of interest to the FBI, please feel free to discuss it with Mr. James H. Gale, Special Agent in Charge of our Chicago Office, located at 536 South Clark Street, or with the Special Agent in Charge of any of our other offices which may be located more conveniently for you.

Sincerely yours,

1 - Chicago - Enclosure  
1 - Boston - Enclosure

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

2014-07-10 10:41:03 AM EDT by DC/G/ymw  
7/14/03 AUC 60390 BOE/DCG/ymw

102-32899-169

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 11 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

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DIRECTOR, FBI

7/27/61

SAC, MEMPHIS (100-3727)

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
SM - X

At 5:45 p.m. 7/18/61 [redacted]

tele-

[redacted] phone [redacted] telephonically advised SA FRANCIS W. NORWOOD at the Nashville RA. At this time he stated that he [redacted]

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meeting of the John Birch Society in Nashville. He stated it was announced to all members of the group who were present at the meeting that efforts were being made to obtain the names of all the "liberals" in each area throughout the United States where there are John Birch Societies. The names and addresses of these "liberals" and any information available concerning their activities is to be sent to the Headquarters, John Birch Society, Belmont, Mass.

Each member of the Society in Nashville, Tenn., was requested to submit to the officers of the group a list of names of persons in the area whom they considered "liberal" and information upon which they based their opinion.

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[redacted] also stated that some discussion was carried on concerning the fact that the Secret Service had obtained handwriting specimens from some young boy in Nashville, Tenn. He stated the significance of this was never made clear.

[redacted] was advised that any information he cared to furnish would be taken. No efforts were made to guide his activities, and no comment was made to him concerning the John Birch Society. No further action is being taken on this matter by the Memphis Division, since it does not appear that the information is of such significance that it should be disseminated.

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P.  
2 Bureau  
1 - Boston  
1 - Memphis  
FWN/krp

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

7/16/03 8:45:20 AM C:\USERS\BCE\DESG\YMM  
7/16/03 8:45:20 AM C:\USERS\BCE\DESG\YMM

100-3727-170

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 1 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
MEMORANDUM

TO : SAC, Boston

DATE: AUG. 2 1961

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT:

ROBERT SELCH INC  
BELMONT 78  
MASS  
5-555  
SAC  
561

SM - C

On 6/2/61, [REDACTED] a source who has furnished reliable information in the past. [REDACTED] b7D  
[REDACTED] "Political Affairs", maintained on the ninth floor at 832 Broadway, NYC.

Attached above is a photograph of the name and address of a subscriber.

In "The Worker", an East Coast Communist weekly newspaper, issue of 3/5/61, the editor of "Political Affairs" identified the latter publication as an organ of the National Committee of the CP, USA, published monthly.

This item is being furnished for your information and appropriate action.

No copy of the item or of this letter is being retained by the New York Office.

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DATE 01-30-2012

FJC:jbb

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 7/16/03 BY ANC 60290.BCE/bca/jmw

100-23261-100  
BN BN  
100-23261-100  
J

**Fair Enough**

# Birch Society Seen As Freedom Force

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

NEW YORK—These tranquilizers of mine have mentioned the John Birch Society only twice, but in three weeks I have received more than 2000 enthusiastic and literate endorsement, from strangers, at least half of them in many cities where my nice dissents have been suppressed since the Hyde Park Mahatma talked the Treasury out of the income tax on Elliott's alimony for his No. 2 wife.

In parenthesis let me remind you that Our Leader induced John Hartford, of the A&P stores, to lend Elliott \$200,000 and later got Jesse Jones to recover the collateral and the notes for \$4000.

I realize that this conduct by a president is a mere paragraph in the great unknown history of our country to all Americans who are under 35 and to millions more of higher years. Such truth is not taught in our schools.

This fact leads me now to discuss an order from the secretary of defense forbidding all Army officers to educate American troops in facts that might create in their minds contempt for the reigning heirs to the regime which made it imperative for them to shoulder arms against Moscow at this late date.

**NOT PATHETIC**

The attorney general of California, Stanley Mosk, a Democrat of course, has just issued a bull intended to dismiss the John Birch Society as a "pathetic" futility. But this estimate seems inaccurate. This uprisings may be real.

Like most of his partisans, Mr. Mosk says the John Birch people are trying to destroy constitutional freedom in a frightened obsession about democratic departures from the Constitution.

In that contention he is wrong, if not guilty of something. For the Birch Society is fighting all democratic measures which violate the Constitution. They start with total confiscation of all of everyone's

income and continue through compulsory military service or involuntary servitude in time of peace.

Its members by some accord have adopted the phra "This is a republic; not a democracy. Let's keep it that way!"

**BEAR SLOGANS**

The Post Office Dept. tried to expunge that patriotic slogan from cancellation stamps and prompted thousands of people to buy rubber stamps and stickers and to plaster their letters with them.

Hundreds of my letters of this great batch bear also the slogan: "Impeach Earl Warren." I think this is an impractical idea but a worthy emotion and therefore endorse it. However, I have abstained from joining the society because it might not be fair enough to the right.

The tenor of my 2000 letters in this brief time is that those persons at last realize that I was not merely a wooly figure or a soapbox howling hoarsely against La Boca Grande.

On the contrary, it seems I was a tireless crusader against crimes and sly political betrayals which, in the words of the late Whittaker Chambers, destroyed the most beautiful political - spiritual creation wrought by man—the Christian civilization of the Western world.

Not one of those 2000 letters is ungrammatical.

Not one of them damns education as such or taxes as such or appropriate medical treatment of the mentally infirm.

But they do fight a political censorship of history which hides the personal crimes of Roosevelt and the betrayal of the country.

They would limit and some, including Bracken Lee, would abolish, the federal income tax. And the horrible example of Mrs. Manuel Miller of Vermont, and Ezra Pound, to

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/14/03 BY ANC 60290 BCE/DCG/ymw

name only two, are proof that the federal government does now possess and wield a power to throw people into hellish.

**FIRST OUTCRY**

These letters of mine suggest a remarkably intelligent and determined rising of unacquainted but sympathetic Americans everywhere. I find them in Midland and Pampa, Houston and Dallas, Tex.; a hundred of them in Montana; in both Dakotas and even in the politico-intellectual stockade of Atlanta.

So John Birch may not be merely another murmur in the drugged sleep of a conquered people.

It may be the first outcry in a grand revolution—led by not one general but by a hundred of the best generals and admirals that the country has yet produced.

Copyr., 1961, King Features Inc.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
 Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
 Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 8-10-61  
Edition: Sports Star  
Author: Westbrook Pegler  
Editor: Springfield Brooks  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or character: 100  
Page: 1C  
Bufile:  
Submitting Office: Boston 100-32699

15-33777-172

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 11 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

8/21/61

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (2-104401)  
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-59001)  
RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
INTERNAL SECURITY

(Conceal, HIS REQUEST) established contact of Los Angeles Office, confidentially advised that the "Route 66" television Company will be in Boston in late August and expects to shoot on August 29, 1961 in the City of Boston an episode in the television series to be titled "To Walk With the Serpent". The main character will be a person bearing the name, "JOHN BEACHMONT" or similar, and the film is indicated as bearing on the theme of the John Birch Society, and appealing to readers of such journals as "Harper's", "Saturday Review of Literature" and "The Nation".

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stated that the story or script will be done by [redacted] and production by [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Review of Los Angeles Indices shows nothing subversive derogatory identifiable with either [redacted]  
[redacted]

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3 - Bureau  
1 - Boston  
1 - New York  
3 - Los Angeles

(1 - 100-15732 - Complic)  
(1 - 100-19333 - Cominfil Radio - TV)

TWC/kls  
(8)

100-32817-173

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FBI - BOSTON	

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DATE 2/16/03 BY Auc 10290 BSC/DCG/jmw

LA 100-59001

Instant "Route 66" series is sponsored on television by Chevrolet.

New York Offices of Screen Gems, Inc., are believed to be at 711 Fifth Avenue.

Copies are furnished New York and Boston for information.

## CHARGES JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY IS LAX ON COMMUNISM

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) — Gov. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin last night accused the arch-conservative John Birch Society of being more interested in blocking progressive legislation than in combatting Communism.

In a speech to more than 1000

delegates at the opening of the National Student Association's 14th annual congress at the University of Wisconsin, Nelson said:

"In our country, the attack on freedom of speech and freedom of inquiry is frequently masked as a crusade against

Communist subversion.

"The expression of an indigenous American drive toward progress is often branded as alien Marxism by those who are committed to the status quo, if not to the status quo ante," he said.

"It is clear from the avowed commitments of such groups

as the John Birch Society that the real goal is far less to combat the pathetic remnants of the Communist Party in this country than it is to emasculate progressive legislation that has developed directly out of American experience and American needs," Nelson declared.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 6-21-61  
Edition: Sunrise  
Author:  
Editor: James P. Murphy  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: 100  
Page: 32  
Bufile:  
Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

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DATE 7/14/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE | DCG | ymz

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DATE 01-30-2012

60-32899-174

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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 21 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

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b7c

# Thomas J. Fitzgerald Post, No. 561

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

715 E. FOURTH STREET, SOUTH BOSTON 27, MASS.

## ADJUTANT

Francis J. Callahan  
12 MERCER STREET  
SOUTH BOSTON  
ANDREW 9-1713



## QUARTERMASTER

George F. King  
760 EAST FOURTH STREET  
SOUTH BOSTON  
ANDREW 8-5948

## COMMANDER

J. V. C.  
Walter M. Clark  
COLUMBIA 5-6296

Vincent P. Greeley  
697 E. SIXTH STREET  
SOUTH BOSTON  
ANDREW 8-3391

## S. V. C.

Edward C. Connelly  
ANDREW 8-1138

August 25, 1961

Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Sheraton Building  
Boston 16, Mass.

RE: Enclosed subversive material received by  
our Post.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is copy of most recent communication with envelope received from an unknown subversive organization which has been actively soliciting support of Veteran's Organizations for many months. In the past we have disregarded these communications and have even destroyed them, but now we feel that this particular communication requires your immediate attention.

At our last Post meeting it was unanimously voted and approved that we take a definite action on this particular communication and your comments as to action taken by your department will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

*Vincent P. Greeley*  
Vincent P. Greeley  
Commander

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FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 7/14/03 BY AVC 60290 BCE/DCG/jmw

10 - 32899-175

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 18 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

470 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts

August 23, 1961

Vincent P. Greeley, Commander  
Thomas P. Fitzgerald Post, No. 561  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
715 E. Fourth Street  
South Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Commander Greeley:

Your letter of August 15, 1961 with enclosure has been received, and the interest which prompted your communication is appreciated.

Please be assured that the material furnished has received appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

*L. L. Laughlin*  
L. L. LAUGHLIN  
Special Agent in Charge

LMM:lc  
(2)

100-32899

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FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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100-32899176

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SERIALIZED	11
INDEXED	11
FILED	11

## Birch Society Assists Reds, Pastor Charges

Instead of fighting communism, members of the John Birch Society actually aid it "by creating an atmosphere of fear and suspicion in our churches, schools, government and in our homes," a Methodist minister said yesterday.

At Copley Methodist Church, Newbury st., Rev. Paul H. Bassett of Rossford, O., said: "Evil clothes itself in many garbs. In the 1930's it took the form of a house painter in Germany.

"In the 1960's it lifts its head in the figure of a candy manufacturer in America . . . both common sense and Christian charity are absent from their pronouncements."

He accused the Birch Society of being opposed to the kind of progress and change which is essential to America today.

"Working under the guise of anti-communism, the Birch Societies are creating an atmosphere in America which is hostile to intellectual freedom. They are trying to frighten loyal Americans into a nervous conformity."

*Sunder*

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 6-26-61  
Edition: Morning  
Author:  
Editor: Victor O. Jones  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: 100  
Page: 26  
Bufile:  
Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

100-32899-177

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JUN 1 1961	
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DATE 01-30-2012

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DATE 2/16/03 BY AUC b6220 BCE/DCG/jmw

CC: Bureau

BS-6 Revised (7-17-59)

## Freedom for John Birch

The American Civil Liberties causes is one thing. To deprive members of the military of the Union has protested the removal of "The Life of John Birch" and opportunity to know about political Robert Welch's "American Opinion" magazine from the newsstands causes is quite something else.

The two publications were removed from the 24th Division's newsstands at the time of General Walker's rebuke. It is therefore obvious that they were removed because the government considered that of the ACLU.

The 24th Division, it will be remembered, was commanded by Major General Edwin A. Walker until his removal for allegedly impugning in public the loyalty of certain prominent Americans.

Precisely what General Walker said has never, to our knowledge, been authoritatively established. We have not criticized him, although we have supported the right of the civilian authorities to discipline military officers who publicly promote political causes, whether of the right, the left or the center.

However, to discipline a military officer for promoting political

ment censored these publications. The First Amendment's guarantee of free speech is predicated upon the assumption that citizens will make intelligent public policy if they are permitted to hear all shades of political opinion.

One shade of political opinion—and a prominent one these days—is reflected in the publications of the John Birch Society. It must be accorded as much freedom as any other viewpoint. The First Amendment is ideologically blind.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/16/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/gmw

In plain words, the govern-

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 9-7-61  
Edition: Late City  
Author:  
Editor: George E. Minot  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character: 100-  
Page: 18  
Bufile:  
Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

100-32899-178

Searched	Indexed
Serialized (initials)	Filed (initials)
SEP 7 - 1961	
[Redacted]	

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b7c

## Birch Society Head Sues Over Book Publication

(New York Times News Service)

NEW HAVEN — Robert Welch, the head of the controversial John Birch society, filed suit in U.S. district court here today charging Fawcett Publications, of Greenwich, with infringing on his copyright on "The Blue Book of the John Birch Society."

Welch, of Belmont, Mass., charges that a pocket size edition entitled, "Inside the John Birch Society" published by Fawcett "was largely copied from the Blue Book of the John Birch Society."

Welch seeks a ruling enjoining Fawcett from continued distribution of the pocket book. He also asks for an accounting of all profits made by Fawcett on the edition and property damages not less than \$250.

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
 Christian Science Monitor,  
 Boston, Mass.  
 Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: 9-3-61  
Edition: Late City  
Author:  
Editor: George E. Minot  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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Class. or Character: 100  
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Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

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DATE 01-30-2012

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DATE 1/16/03 BY ANC (MSA-BCE/Dec/jmw)

CC: Bureau

100-32899-179

RW RL

# Tag Birch Group as U. S. Foe<sub>pls</sub>

The John Birch Society and the American Nazi Party today stood equally guilty before the State Labor Council, CIO-AFL, as being hostile to the United States.

The labor group at its annual convention in the Hotel Bradford unanimously adopted a resolution denouncing the Birch Society as an organization founded on and advocating "the adoption of Communist tactics and anti-democratic techniques to fight communism."

Joseph Salerno, New England director of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, blasted both Democrats and Republicans for failing to solve the country's unemployment problems.

"After a year and a half recession there are still more than 4½ million unemployed in this country, while automation and the entrance of new workers into the labor market create the need of at least 2½ million new jobs per year."

He called for higher teacher salaries, claiming that "penny-pinching city, state and federal governments" have caused this country to lag behind Russia and Red China.

John E. Powers, Senate president, defended state politics, claiming that "Massachusetts has no more corruption than in any of the governments of the other 49 states. Massachusetts' government is just as clean and virile as that of any other state. Do not judge the many by the acts of the few."

XXX Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Recrd, Boston, Mass.

4-29- 61  
Date: Sport Star  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor: Winfield Brooks  
Title: Tag Birch Group as U.S. Foe

Class. or Character: 100- CC: Bureau  
Page: 15  
Buffle: 100-  
Submitting Office: Boston 100-32899

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JULY 14 2003	
FBI - BOSTON	

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## Birch Society Member Is URI Speaker

Since the John Birch Society was founded in 1958 it has concentrated on a build-up of membership and gathering funds and has not had the opportunity to develop a program of fighting the Communist outside of publishing a monthly magazine which exposes Communist activity. Norman D. MacLeod of Kenyon said yesterday.

Speaking in Edwards Hall at the University of Rhode Island, Mr. MacLeod, a member of the society, said that correspondents around the world contribute the material for the publication "American Opinion."

Mr. MacLeod joined the society early in 1959 through the national office in Belmont, Mass. There is no local chapter in Rhode Island, he said.

Answering a question concerning the society's proposed impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren, Mr. MacLeod said, "While I may agree in part with the program I feel it is unrealistic and I am doing nothing to support it."

In defending the controversial movie "Operation Abolition," Mr. MacLeod said that the film was prepared by professional cameramen and "if it is propaganda then so is all the news on television."

Mr. MacLeod said he could not identify any Communists or Communist organizations but that several groups which he called "dukes" of the Communists distribute Communist propaganda. He identified these "dukes" as the clergy, liberals, intelligentsia, labor unions, the State Department, the National Labor Relations Board, state governments, and parent-teacher organizations.

The society's objective, Mr. MacLeod said, is to achieve less domination by government, more individual responsibility and a "better world."

More than 200 persons attended the program sponsored by the Birch Society.



Norman D. MacLeod of  
the John Birch Society, at  
Edwards Hall, URI.  
URI photo by EDWARD LEVINE

*Indy*

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/16/03 BY AJC 40390 BCE/DCG/jmw

XXX The Providence Journal

The Evening Bulletin

Date: 10/25/61

Edition: AM

Author:

Editor: SEVELLON BROWN, III

Title: NORMAN D. MACLEOD

*John BIRCH SOCIETY ✓*

Class. or Character:

Page: 6

Bufile No.:

Submitting Office: Boston

*100-2879-182*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 26 1961	

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## **Left and Right Views Debated**

## Brown Students Hear Birch Society Man, Red China Supporter

Spokesmen for left wing and right wing political philosophies clashed last night at Brown University in a debate that ranged far afield from the main topic: Should Red China be admitted to, the United Nations?

Norman D. MacLeod of Kenyon, a member of the John Birch Society, said that admission of Red China would render the United States virtually impotent in the world organization. The Peiping regime would gain world prestige enabling it to expand its designs on neighboring countries, he said.

Mrs. Myra Tanner Weiss, a former vice presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, rejected those views and said that Red China "has no reason" to want war.

The debate, sponsored by the board of governors of Faunce House, was held at Carmichael Auditorium before a capacity crowd. It was preceded by the showing of a film, "Red China—Outlaw," prepared and distributed by the Committee of One

## Million Against the Admission of Red China to the U.N.

Mrs. Weiss asserted that the communist takeover in China grew out of Chiang Kai-shek's refusal to permit any opposition to his regime. She said that the same motives which prompted the Chinese revolution caused the uprisings in Korea and in Indochina.

Korea and in Indochina.  
She said she supports the Communist regime in China, but opposes some policies of that government. She labeled them as rooted in "Stalinistic, bureaucratic" philosophy.

Mr. MacLeod held that Red China's refusal to agree to a nuclear test ban should bar its admission to the U.N. He said that its admission would not serve to lessen world tensions because the Red regime "does not represent the large portion

of the people of China."

Both speakers attacked reporting of the question by Western newspapers. Mrs. Weiss said, "The majority of American newspapers are owned by big business interests and present the point of view of the corporations."

Mr. MacLeod disagreed and drew laughter from the audience when he said: "I take issue with this. I've heard the complaint that 50 per cent of the press and radio here are Communist-controlled."

Mr. MacLeod refused, however, to name a station or publication which came under this category.

When the student audience laughed at a statement by Mrs. Weiss that the "U.S. won the war (World War II) and lost China to the Chinese people," she declared:

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Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
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Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
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PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, PROV. R. I.

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Editor: EVELYN BROWN, III  
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A warm discussion at Carmichael Auditorium last night involves Mrs. Myra Tanner Weiss, one of speakers . . .



. . . and a Brown freshman, Jack Lewis of New York City, who makes a point of his own from the floor.



Mrs. Weiss tosses it right back at him.  
—Journal-Bulletin Photos by Tom Stoddard

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Mr. Leo Laughlin

F.B.I.  
470 Atlantic Ave.  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Laughlin:

Please find attached a complete transcript of the statement made by Arnold Forster, National Civil Rights Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith on the subject of the John Birch Society, Belmont, Massachusetts, at the October 29, meeting of the Ford Hall Forum in Boston.

Sincerely,

*Isadore Zack*  
Isadore Zack

IIZ/c  
att.

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STATEMENT BY ARNOLD FORSTER

at Ford Hall Forum  
in Boston, Massachusetts  
on Sunday, October 29, 1961

You are a very nice looking group, and a comparatively large one, as meetings of this kind go these days.

But I am not overly impressed because I am becoming sort of used to large audiences. Earlier this month I attended another meeting. There were 1,600 people there and they were as well dressed as you appear to be — certainly, as a group, they were on a high economic level, and they had come together in a gracious suburban community.

It was in no sense an assemblage of unemployed malcontents or crackpots. Indeed, I estimated that at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the room was filled with college-age men and women, and with upper middle-class couples in their early 30's. Most of the rest were people who, from their fine dress, their social presence, had arrived, so-to-speak, economically.

I should tell you that I waited to buy a ticket of admission -- in a line 4 deep, almost a block long -- for more than an hour before the meeting began.

There are, to be sure, two real differences in the character of that gathering in Garden City and this one tonight. There we listened to the speaker for one continuous hour and forty minutes. I promise you far less time from me. Second, was the Alice-In-Wonderland quality about that meeting compared to the very real down-to-earth nature that this one seems already to have.

By now, of course, you must be aware that I attended the Long Island meeting of the John Birch Society where I heard Robert Welch, its leader, talk.

He turned the world inside out and upside down -- not only in his formal presentation but in his answers to questions in the discussion period. At long length I heard him prove -- at least to the satisfaction of many in the hall -- that Communism is an evil imposed upon the masses across the world by the millionaire class; a method of enslaving the poor people who inhabit the earth. It was difficult to believe that his listeners, dressed expensively, sporting jewelry, using '61 and '62 automobiles, could swallow the story.

I listened to his explanation of his so-called "principle of reversal" -- and was overcome again with that never-never-land feeling: If a man admits he is a Communist, then you know he is. After that things are never what they seem. If a man denies he is a Communist, then he must be one because he denies it.

That may be an oversimplification, but it is not an inaccurate analysis of how the principle works. He applied it the evening of the Garden City meeting. The legal decision, he said, handed down that very day by the U. S. Supreme Court, requiring the Communist Party to register against its will -- that decision is no evidence the Court understands the evil of Communism; on the contrary, it is proof that the Supreme Court secretly approves Communism.

His villains that night were the Republicans, the Democrats, Earl Warren, Urban Renewal, the United Nations, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. His hero was the late Senator Joe McCarthy.

Not a word of anti-Semitism passed Mr. Welch's lips; certainly none that I could detect -- and in this narrow field, at least, I consider myself as somewhat expert. He even avoided that kind of innuendo which the audience could interpret as a covert expression of anti-Jewish hostility. I came to the conclusion that Robert Welch knows full well anti-Semitism can be a kiss of death.

The same, however, cannot be said for a large number of people in his audience. There was a question-and-answer period during which Mr. Welch had no control either over a question posed out loud or the reaction of the listeners to the question. Thus, when one person stood to his feet demanding to know "Who promoted Peress?" -- this was the signal for the knowing oohs and aahs across the room, and the sudden burst of approving applause.

During the course of his presentation, the Birch leader had talked about the infiltration of Communist agents into the Protestant clergy, mentioning, in passing, that there was some of it, too, in the Roman Catholic Priesthood. This provoked, during the question-and-answer period, a query from a lady who wanted to know what the situation was among Rabbis. Again, even before he could answer, the room reacted to the question with a quick, enthusiastic round of applause -- applause which could only be interpreted as the audience's inarticulate way of saying, "Ah, now we are putting our finger on the real problem."

I think even Welch detected it, and after saying vaguely that he supposed there was some infiltration in the rabbinate, added that there probably was also infiltration in the Moslem priesthood. This last comment was deliberately misinterpreted by his listeners. They reacted as if he was being humorously sly. They pretended that his answer was meant to convey to them: "Yes, the Jews are the core of the problem, but if we say it that bluntly, we will be charged with anti-Semitism. So let's blame all religions and with equal absurdity include the Moslems."

Now any one of you is free to reject my analysis of the Garden City audience, purely personal and perhaps visceral. In that case, let's approach the matter on a somewhat more intellectual level:

I begin by stating my opposition to the Birch Society because that organization regards democracy as an evil and as a sure road to Communism. I respect democracy, its political and ethical concepts, and the integrity of its institutions. As a lawyer, I specifically include the institution of the American Judiciary.

In this connection, the Society is guilty of attempts to pressure our courts of law by threats and other forms of browbeating. Whether the target be the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court or the lowliest police magistrate, this is a fundamental violation of our constitutional concepts and subversive of the American form of government.

Mr. Welch has declared -- and I quote -- "Democracy...in government or organization...is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagogery and a perennial fraud." -- Nor am I reassured, even though Mr. Welch has also declared that the United States is not a democracy but a republic, and we ought to keep it that way.

The Birch movement is a matter of grave concern to all Americans. Why? Because in our country voluntary agencies traditionally play an important role -- for good or evil -- and the John Birch Society is the latest voluntary know-nothing organization in America. We have seen what damage know-nothing movements can do. In your lifetime and mine, we have had Coughlinism, America First and the McCarthy Movement -- and now their successor, Birch. This one has two features the others lacked: a leader with a great capacity to organize and a technique of secrecy -- secrecy of action through "front organizations."

Why should we be concerned about a radical right-wing organization composed of a small band of extremists on the fringe of American political life who see all problems in conspiratorial terms? Because the John Birch Society is part of a larger movement. While clearly the most notorious and best publicized of the radical right-wing groups on the American scene -- it is only one of many new ones on the far right.

Some 95 groups -- from conservative to extremist right-wing -- have sprung up in the United States, most of them within the last two years. Of the 95, I count 18 new ones in 1960, and 44 in 1961; in short, more in the first six months of this year than in any similar period in the last twenty.

In less than three years the Birch Society has developed a gross annual income of about a million and a half dollars from dues, honorary life memberships, special contributions, and the sale of literature. Although it will release no membership figures, experts in the field say that those who pay dues number about 60,000. Its paid staff consists of approximately 63 men and women.

While substantial, the movement is obviously not quite as big as its press notices would indicate. The fact is that the Society earns extravagant amounts of publicity by Welch's outrageous charges of Communism against such Americans as former President Eisenhower, the late John Foster Dulles, or an unidentified group of several hundred Roman Catholic priests.

No one is safe. Monseignor Francis J. Lally, editor of "The Pilot" here in Boston, is one of those who might well be tagged by Mr. Welch. The Monseignor was among the American editors who spoke up in an excellent editorial, published on October 11th, in defense of the Catholic clergy after Mr. Welch at Garden City in effect charged 273 Catholic Priests with being Communists.

Thank the good sense of the American press that -- like Monseignor Lally and "The Pilot" -- the major amount of newspaper comment has been adverse; examination shows that in the period from June 1st to October 15, 1961, the press has been overwhelmingly critical.

Mr. Welch contends that the Communists are responsible for precipitating the press attack upon his organization -- part of the conspiracy, of course. It was, he claims, triggered by a "signal" given in an article published on February 25, 1961 in the Communist "People's World" which circulates on the West Coast. He referred to that article as the "mother piece" for all that followed, adding that "Time Magazine" was the first in line. But his charge does not square with the facts. The plain truth is that the "People's World" was a "Johnny-Come-Lately."

Back in July 1960, newspapers in the Mid-West uncovered and published the details of Welch's accusations in his then-secret manuscript "The Politician."

One of your own newspapers here in Boston ran a series a few weeks later; the "Boston Herald." The reporter was Stanley Eames. The articles -- which cited Welch's fantasies from "The Politician" -- appeared in the last week of August 1960. Wasn't Mr. Welch aware of these articles in his own backyard, when he charged that the Reds had given the "signal" in February 1961 -- six months after the "Boston Herald" expose?

The John Birch Society would never have received its nationwide notoriety if its Founder had not written "The Politician" -- the book he called a confidential letter -- with its outlandish allegations of treason. However, under any circumstances, some of its leadership stands sufficiently high in the community power-structure to win the group a hearing from newspaper editors. Local leaders and members of the Society are, in many cases, people of financial responsibility and social status in their communities. They are often able to exert considerable influence and impact at the local level when they decide to put the pressure on a school teacher, or a school superintendent, or a school board.

In affirmation of his hatred of democracy, Mr. Welch has structured his Society in an un-democratic fashion: The organization is centrally-controlled and tightly run by the Founder himself. Everything operates from the top down; Mr. Welch picks his national organizers for the Society; they report directly to him; chapter leaders report to national, regional or local organizers picked by Mr. Welch or his agents. Founder Welch himself has a good business head, considerable business experience, a great capacity for attention to details, and an enormous will for hard work and sole leadership.

Mr. Welch makes no bones about who is the boss. I quote -- "The John Birch Society will operate under completely authoritative control at all levels" -- That's from page 159 of the "Blue Book of the John Birch Society."

The "Blue Book" -- as you probably know -- is a verbatim transcript of Welch's incredible two-day monologue, delivered at the founding meeting of the Society in December 1958, in Indianapolis. There, eleven of his close associates -- obviously men of tremendous endurance -- listened patiently before agreeing to launch the organization.

At another point in the "Blue Book" Mr. Welch says that members who no longer feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or they will be put out; and he also declares that -- I quote -- "We shall have short cuts for eliminating differences without going through any Congress of so-called democratic processes." --

If the authoritarian structure of the Birch organization is elementary, its basic premises are primitive: First, it believes in the conspiratorial theory of history and politics. Conspiracy is always the answer. Second, it believes that the Communist conspiracy has already captured control of most of the world -- including the United States -- and because it is already victorious here on our shores, battle must now be done to recapture the country from the enemy.

That both premises are false is patent and demonstrable.

5.

It's almost incredible that we should be here tonight seriously discussing a group whose leader believes his own obviously false assumptions -- if I may, his own political fantasies -- fantasies that a former President was a Communist agent... as was a member of the family...as was a former Secretary of State -- and a member of his family also. True, a world of fantasy. But a world which unfortunately seems also to be the ideological dwelling place of at least 60,000 other Americans.

Perhaps not all his followers agree with everything he says. Some Birchites have gone to great lengths to disassociate themselves from his views about General George C. Marshall and other great American leaders he has smeared. They say these views are personal, nor organizational.

The contention is untenable -- because, by his own statements, Welch has made it clear that he is the Society -- that the Society is a monolithic organization in which he is the central moving spirit. Any attempt to separate the two fails.

But even if they were separable -- how do you explain so many Americans who are willing to join a leader holding such incredible viewpoints?

I think there is an explanation: If the Society's members are uneasy or embarrassed by his more sensational views, they nevertheless live in the same fantasy-land with Mr. Welch.

What kind of place is it which these men and women populate? It is a world whose inhabitants assume that there must be solutions that will produce victories on the international scene and will resolve all our domestic problems. If no easy solutions are forthcoming, there must somewhere be a conspiracy preventing it. They see the world around them -- the churches, the press, radio and television, the unions -- almost all the established institutions in our free society -- in the grip of Communist conspirators, or their sympathizers.

Those who disagree with this view are naturally a part of the conspiracy, for there can be no honest basic differences of opinion: you are a Bircher -- or you are a Red, or a tool -- and this applies to anyone from Republican to left-wing Socialists. Most ridiculous of all, the Birchers view the government itself -- and its political leaders -- as just another part of the same pack of Communist agents or dupes -- no one of them to be trusted.

One other dimension to the Birch philosophy. It is this: There is no hope of salvation through the ballot box. "Direct action" is necessary -- through secret or semi-secret cells; through high pressure campaigns such as "Impeach Earl Warren"; through "front" groups, and by means of a whole flood of crash programs and emergency actions that reflect only their neurotic fears and distorted views.

Now we know who is the Society's enemy -- practically anybody. Made possible by the "principle of reversal" -- which can turn any loyal citizen into a traitor with the wave of a Birch wand. Keep the principle in mind and the Communists are really in favor of many things they profess to oppose; they say they are against something only in order to make us be for it.

For example, Mr. Welch has characterized the late U. N. Secretary General -- Dag Hammarskjold -- as a Kremlin agent. When the Soviet attacked Mr. Hammarskjold and fought for his ouster, the Communists, Mr. Welch tells us, were only doing so to provoke us into insisting that Hammarskjold be kept in his U. N. post -- which is what Khrushchev really wanted.

Again: Founder Welch believes that the Soviets really sent the first Sputnik into orbit because they wanted us to increase our defense spending, and thus weaken ourselves economically.

If we increase our military spending, we play into the Kremlin's hands. If we reduce American military might, we are also playing into the Kremlin's hands. Heads they win, tails we lose.

If all this were merely ridiculous, I think we could live with it -- even if many thousands of our fellow citizens on the fringe of our political life believe it. But there is cause for genuine concern. For this inside-out reasoning -- the unsound major premise -- carries with it a tremendous potential for harm to our country and to a genuine effort to stem the tide of world Communism. The simple truth is that the Birchers do not sow understanding, they sow confusion. They do not contribute to a calm, firm national effort to combat Communism; they sow fear, semi-hysteria, panic.

Why haven't I told you what they are for? Why have I withheld from you the content of their constructive program? I haven't withheld anything; they have no positive, no constructive program. They are not for anything; they are only against. Being against is the only program Welch offers his followers.

To impeach the Presiding Justice of the United States Supreme Court, is a typical campaign — and such destructive activities deeply involve Birch members in the work of the organization; it keeps them busy on a continuing basis carrying out assigned tasks; it requires chapter meetings, special projects, local Birch reading rooms. You see the Society member does not merely join the organization, pay his initiation fee plus dues and then sit back to receive his monthly newsletter. He becomes a functioning part of a negative movement.

Because it is an against movement, the Society always run the risk of committing a libel in attacking people. But Mr. Welch created a loophole. Rather than pay the price of libel, he seeks to hide behind a semantic camouflage. That is why he coined the word "Comsymp" -- to describe an enemy whom he cannot quite prove to be an outright Communist but whom he believes to be more than a mere sympathizer. The new word, he hopes, will avoid the built-in libel trap of the word "Communist".

But anyone can use this device; anyone, that is, who will not be concerned about your level of intelligence. Let me, with appropriate apology to you, use it just this once: Members of the Birch Society may not be outright bigots but they may be more than mere sympathizers. The proper word, then, would be: Bigsymps.

Seriously, the real threat today of Communism in America -- and it is real enough -- is from the outside. It is an absurd notion that our most dangerous Communist enemy is internal, that it is already virtually victorious, and that it must be fought within our borders to the almost total exclusion of every other political problem.

Outside or within, Communism is an evil and it must be handled. If we are all agreed on that premise, then, you might ask, why all the shouting? Why don't we all just get along with the task of handling it?

Because the only thing on which most of us agree with the Birch Society is that Communism is a menace. After that, we separate -- and separate fast -- because we are convinced that Birch not only shoots political buckshot at everybody and his uncle, failing effectively to attack Communism, but unwittingly (to give it the benefit of the doubt) aids and abets Communism, falling into its traps -- indeed, into its very lap. If Communism ever does take over in the United States -- and I doubt that -- we will have two groups to thank; the Communists and the Birchists.

Let us see whether my last statement is cheap demagoguery or thoughtful reasoning: A most striking and significant feature of the Society is that many of its campaigns parallel those of the Soviet Communists. The Society would seek to destroy, among other things, NATO, the United Nations and the vital American system of economic and military aid to underdeveloped countries. These are also precisely the aims of the Soviet Union in its efforts to weaken the United States throughout the world. Let's look at the twin character:

Number One -- NATO: The Soviet would smash NATO so that it could not protect against Communist intrusion upon Western Europe... Birch would take U.S. troops out

of NATO, making it incapable of protecting against Communist intrusion upon Western Europe.

Number Two -- The United Nations: To capture control of it, the Soviet insists upon the right of veto, even in the administration of U.N. work... Birch would take the United States out of the U.N., leaving the Soviet in control of it, including administration.

Number Three -- Foreign Aid: The Soviet tries to persuade underdeveloped countries to reject American economic and military assistance... Birch would withdraw such American assistance from underdeveloped countries.

Number Four -- The Communist Menace: The Soviet argues that Communism is no external threat to the United States... Birch argues that Communism is a more internal threat than an external one.

Number Five -- The Race Problem: The Soviet would convince Asian and African nations to turn their backs on the United States because of its alleged pro-racist policies... Birch would impeach Earl Warren for his anti-racist decisions.

Number Six -- Social Justice: The Soviet does not believe in it... Birch is opposed to civil rights and the religious gospel of social rights.

Number Seven -- The Front Organization: The Soviet attempts to use "fronts" as an essential tool in the dissemination of its propaganda in the United States... Birch advocates the use of "fronts" as a technique for propaganda purposes.

Number Eight -- The Communist Party: In the Soviet it is a monolithic, totalitarian movement with no dissent permitted to its followers from the principles laid down by its leader... Ditto for the Birch Society.

And yet no one of us is foolish enough to suggest that the Birch Society is Communist. But I guess if there were no John Birch Society, the Communists would invent one.

What's the real reason for the recent appearance of so many right-wing organizations on the American scene -- and for the success (such as it is) of the Welch movement? The reason -- in a nutshell: the frustrations of the American people; the troubles we are having with Russia; the problems in Berlin, Laos and Cuba; the American lag in rocketry, thermo-nuclear weapons, the space race -- in short, the cold war. And on the domestic front: high taxes, rising living costs, the integration struggle, and so on.

For all these difficulties, the Birch movement offers a single solution -- tear down everything that's up.

Does Welch's organization really have a future in America? I think not. Eventually, it will go the way of all know-nothing movements. Once its character is completely known to the American people, the organization is doomed to failure. Understanding the nature of the movement, they will inevitably reject and repudiate it as an unwholesome political growth in American soil. In the nature of things the United States will eventually evolve adequate and proper solutions for its international and

domestic migraine headaches -- at that point Americans will turn their backs on Robert Welch and his John Birch Society.

In short, there are far better answers, better alternatives than those offered by Mr. Welch. But what they are is not my assignment nor our subject this evening. To Birch Society members, if any be present here tonight, I would ask: What kind of fools do you take the American people to be? Do you think we are stupid enough to believe that an Eisenhower or a Dulles or a Warren ever deliberately played the Kremlin game?

Yes, we are against Communism, but not the kind you attack. We look out across the sea and we note the menacing Soviet armies, their thermo-nuclear weapons, their missiles, their atomic tests, and their Red Chinese partners, now also struggling to gain atomic weapons -- and we know we are faced with danger -- possibly the ultimate danger in mankind's long history.

We know we must look to our own weapons. We know, too, that we must watch the internal activities of the small band of Communists still in our midst.

But, to point out the enemy for us, we don't need Mr. Welch, or his John Birch Society, or its followers -- who don't know their left from their right. We don't need the mushrooming bands of radical right-wingers -- who can't tell a Republican from a Communist -- and who view Social Security as a dangerous step along the road to Communism.

J. Edgar Hoover who has not as yet -- I think -- been charged with being a Communist agent, a "Comsymp" or a dupe, prepared a statement on the subject of fighting Communism. Here is what he said: -- and I quote --

"The danger of indiscriminately alleging that someone is a Communist merely because his views on a particular issue happen to parallel the official party position is obvious. The confusion which is thereby created helps the Communists by diffusing the forces of their opponents.

"Unfortunately there are those who make the very mistake the Communists are so careful to avoid. These individuals concentrate on the negative rather than on the positive. They are merely against Communism without being for any positive measures to eliminate the social, political and economic frictions which the Communists are so adroit at exploiting.

"These persons", Mr. Hoover concludes, "would do well to recall a lesson from history. Both Hitler and Mussolini were against Communism. However, it was by what they stood for, not against, that history has judged them."

The John Birch Society stands for nothing.

# Birch Claims U. S. Aiding Red Advance

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) -- The leader of the controversial John Birch Society declared last night the United States government has been "the most powerful single force supporting the steady worldwide Communist advance."

In remarks prepared for an anti-Communism rally, Robert Welch said governmental support of Communism was carried out "while always pretending, of course, to oppose that advance."

Welch said "a comparatively few thousand Communists, concentrated in key departments and agencies of our government" have done "a terrific job of determining both the policies and the actions of those agencies and departments—and hence indirectly of our whole government."

Welch said the United States has been taken "steadily down the road to Communism by steps supposedly designed and presented to the American people as ways of fighting Communism.

He said American foreign aid has been a "tremendous help" to the advance of Communism and "it was planned by the Communists for that purpose."

The speaker estimated that about 7000 protestant ministers, or 3 per cent, in the United States are what he called "Com-symp—a man who is either a Communist or sympathizer with Communist purposes."

Welch said he did not have the slightest doubt that the largest single body of Communists in America is in the Protestant clergy.

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## Catholic Weekly Scores Birch Society as Menace

NEW YORK, Nov. 27 (AP)—  
An article in America, national Catholic weekly review, says the John Birch Society "is proving to be an instrument of division and a threat to the national morale."

The article also asserts:

"If allowed to proceed with its work of confusion and division, it will destroy the basis of a solid, effective fight against Communism carried on by such organs as the F.B.I."

The article in the magazine published by a group of Jesuit fathers in the United States and Canada, was written by Father Robert A. Graham.

It said that "a fairly large number of Catholics seem to have been drawn to the society." But it did not accept a 50 percent figure said to have been cited by an aide to Robert Welch, society founder.

In any case, the article said, members of the organization "exhibit an amazing na... about the real issues at st..."

and what they are getting into." 100-32899

It continued:  
"The John Birch Society is certainly no model for a movement in the American democratic tradition. From this standpoint it deserves the castigation it has already received, and one must regret that its members treat so lightly these unpatriotic aspects of a supposedly patriotic organization.

"But the real danger of the society lies, not in its organization and methods, but in its impact upon the American national life at this moment. It is proving to be an instrument of division and a threat to the national morale.

"For, to justify its claim that the country is infiltrated by Communists, the John Birch Society has embarked on an unprecedented and arrogant campaign against almost all our leaders, Democrats or Republicans, Liberals or Conservatives.

"As it stands today Communism, which as an enemy of freedom and order should be the common foe of both Liberals and Conservatives, eludes ... its final accounting."

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FBI - BOSTON	

Lunder J. [Signature]

# Mr. MacLeod's Very

## Questionable Opinions

In address the other day before the Providence Exchange Club, Norman D. MacLeod expressed a number of opinions that lend themselves to debate. His opinion that General Eisenhower, by his acts at war's end, contributed to the success of the Communist Party, for one example, and his opinion that Dr. Barnaby C. Keeney has unfairly criticized the John Birch Society, for another, are opinions that not everyone will share. They are provocative and even interesting opinions, but they also are debatable and questionable opinions which, many of us believe, do not stand up under rational scrutiny.

Equally debatable, and questionable, are the opinions expressed by Mr. MacLeod on the origin, structure and future of our form of government. He says the founding fathers intended to set up a republic "which operates under law," not a democracy "which operates under the dictates of men." He further asserts, as though it were an unvarying law of government, that "democracy eventually becomes a mobocracy, mob rule, and from there goes to socialism, then to communism." Mr. MacLeod implied that we already have passed from democracy to mobocracy and now are tobogganing swiftly toward more evil forms of government that lie beyond.

This line of argument, we submit, reflects a misreading of history, a fruitless hair-splitting over semantics, and a refusal to recognize some of the realities about us.

In the first place, it is now generally accepted that the founding fathers sought to establish a representative democracy and did so. They recognized that the sovereign power resided in the people,



MacLeod

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DATE 7/14/03 BY AUC 60290 BC E/deg/jmw

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, Prov. R. I.

Date: 12/8/61

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Author:

Editor: STELLON BROWN, III

Title:

Norman D. MacLeod  
John Birch Society

Class. or Character:

Page: 29 Editorial page

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DEC 10 1961	
FBI - BOSTON	

*[Handwritten signature]*

would carry on the functions of government. It is pointless to try to draw fine distinctions between a republic and a democracy. It is specious to argue that while the founding fathers intended us to live under a rule of law, we have now cast aside the rule of law and are operating under the "dictates of men." The point is that the founding fathers, in their wisdom, established a form of government which was sufficiently strong and sufficiently flexible to survive all the tests of time and changing circumstance from the late 18th century to the present day. We still live by the law established in that Constitution, and we expect to go on living under it for as far into the future as any man can see. Whether we call this form of government a republic, a democracy, or a representative democracy isn't important. What is important is that it is a workable, time-tested system, whatever name one chooses to apply to it.

As for Mr. MacLeod's curious opinion that democracy inevitably passes through some process of metamorphosis, first into mobocracy, then step by step into socialism and communism, where is the evidence to support this alarming pattern?

The example of Czechoslovakia comes to mind. The Czechs once had a democracy. It became a socialized democracy, which Mr. MacLeod may equate with "socialism," then abruptly was converted to communism. But was this a normal and inevitable progression from democracy to communism? Hardly. It was plainly an example of communism being imposed on an unwilling populace by the guns of a bigger neighbor.

How about Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark or Britain? Have their democracies followed Mr. MacLeod's inexorable pattern into communism? Of course not.

Nor do we have to go so far afield. Our own representative democracy has stood for seven generations and hasn't yet followed Mr. MacLeod's pattern, however.

grave his fears for the immediate future.

Perhaps the surest test of a real democracy is the right accorded to all citizens to speak their minds. We Americans cherish this right. We recognize, as Thomas Jefferson recognized nearly two centuries ago, that a governmental system gains strength by permitting and encouraging all sorts of thoughts and notions, however wild or radical or unpopular, to be freely exchanged in the marketplace of ideas.

In this spirit we welcome Mr. MacLeod's opinions. We welcome them because they stimulate thought and debate, and because thought and debate serve to strengthen our nation and improve our system of government. We must recognize that ours is not a perfect system of government, and that until that unlikely level of purest perfection is attained, we would do well to listen to and weigh all the ideas that are thrown into the marketplace.

Meanwhile, we might ponder the observation of Sir Winston Churchill who once remarked that "democracy is the worst form of government — except all the others."

TO: SAC [REDACTED] (100-18969)  
FROM: SA [REDACTED]  
SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY - [REDACTED]  
IS - C

DATE: December 15, 1961

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Date received 11/29/61	Received from (name or symbol number) [REDACTED]	Received by SA [REDACTED]
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Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

in person  by telephone  by mail  orally  recording device  written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Date of Report

11/18/61

Dictated \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of activity

Transcribed \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED]

Authenticated

by Informant \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of activity or material

b7D

File where original is located if not attached

Remarks:

In view of the sensitivity of this informant, the utmost care must be utilized to carefully paraphrase this information prior to dissemination in order to protect the identity of this informant who has furnished reliable information in the past.

Informant's report follows:

cc: (continued on page 2)

7 - New York (RM)

- 1 - 100-56579 (Phil Bart)
- 1 - 100-23825 (Ben Davis)
- 1 - 100-4931 (CPUSA)
- 1 - 97-169 (Publishers New Press, Inc.)
- 1 - 100- [REDACTED]
- 1 - 100- [REDACTED]
- 1 - 100- (CPUSA - Youth Matters)

100-24914 (Phil Bart)

100-32899 (John Birch Society)

100-5431

100-15158

100-34119

100-23150

100-6866

100-15889

100-775 (Homer B. Chase)

100-18589

100-10230

100-1350 (Community Church Center)

100-16336

100-28112

100-19158

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 7/16/03 BY ANC 60290 BCE/DCS/gwm

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100-32899-190

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*[Signature]*

BS 100-18969

Copies Continued:

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100- (Saugus Universalist Church Forum)  
100-12544 [redacted]  
100-15973 [redacted]  
100-313 [redacted] Universalist Church, Saugus, Mass.)  
100- [redacted]  
100-568 ((FNU) [redacted] member NAACP)  
100-16208 [redacted]  
100-12543 [redacted]  
100-1843 [redacted]  
100-24387 [redacted]  
100-16156 [redacted]  
100-535 [redacted]  
100-8099 [redacted]  
100-33541 [redacted]  
100-33496 [redacted]  
100-926 [redacted]  
100- [redacted]  
100- [redacted]  
100-28032 [redacted]  
100-547 [redacted]  
100-20779 (CP - Organization)  
100-7908 (CPUSA, New England District)  
100-16191 (CP - Funds)  
100-31648 (CP - Counter Intelligence Program)  
100-17999 (CP - Security Measures)  
100-20787 (CP - Factionalism)  
100-23165 (CP - Domestic Administrative Issues)  
100-26893 (CP - Strategy in Industry)  
100-24111 (CP - Negro Question)  
100-20781 (CP - Youth Matters)  
100-18049 (CP - New Hampshire)  
100-1424 (NAACP)

LMM: CAK

(57)

BS 100-18969

"On [redacted] There was a meeting of the [redacted]  
[redacted] Communist Party held at [redacted]  
[redacted] Those attending were as follows:

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[redacted] gave a report of the last D. C. meeting saying PHIL BART had been there and talked on the McCarron law giving the dates of when different aspects or rules of the law were to be put into effect.

"PHIL BART had reported that the Gov't had attempted to get the officers of the Party to sign a paper giving an extension of time for when the gov't could try an income tax case against the party. PHIL BART had said this was one kind of attempt or manoover the Gov't had tried to get an official of the party to sign his or (their) name or (names)

[redacted] reported that BART had said BEN DAVIS had been refused permission to speak before a group of students at a N. Y. university. That about 1200 students had set up a meeting and gone to the C. P. headquarters to hear DAVIS speak. A recorder was used at this meeting

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[redacted] said [redacted] had reported at the D. C. that all Clubs were not meeting on a regular basis.

[redacted] at the D. C. had called attention to this statement by [redacted] and the D. C. members had then assigned different individuals to see that the clubs did meet.

[redacted] reported that [redacted] had remarked about the ultra right reactionary groups such as the John Birch Society & followers of Gen. WALKER which were springing up with the observation by [redacted] that this wasn't all bad, but will help those people on the fence to make up their minds.

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[redacted] said [redacted] had given him a programm of Community Church on which was an announcement of a meeting on Weds. Nov. 27 'The Sobell Case' with SYDNEY SOBELL & Dr. MAX KARGMAN as speakers

[redacted] was asked to report on Peace. She said she didn't have anything to report on the Boston Com. for Dis. & Peace as she hadn't heard anything from them lately. She had received literature & been contacted by the Turn Toward Peace committee. She passed around a leaflet titled 'Turn Toward Peace' asking 'will you help initiate N. E. Turn Toward Peace?'

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"also a card to be filled out by persons with personal data and space for type of volunteer work an individual could contribute.

[redacted] was asked to report on the Forum at the universalist Church in Saugus since [redacted] was absent.

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[redacted] said he had talked to [redacted]. The date of the first Forum would be Dec. 7. The speaker was a [redacted] a Negro member of the N.A.A.C.P. He would speak on the Negro in the labor movement and chances for Negro advancement in industry.

[redacted] said we can give this man ideas of what he could speak about. That this man could speak out that at the G. E. apprentice school there has never been a negro admitted.

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[redacted] pointed out that to get into this school its more than a matter of pull. One must pass a rigid exam. It wasn't entirely a question of who the G.E. wanted.

[redacted] said he understood that but if a person could pass a college entrance exam he could pass the test for the G. E. apprentice school.

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[redacted] of the Universalist Church would handle the publicity for the Forum and see that it got into the Saugus & Lynn papers.

[redacted] suggested that the minister should also contact other ministers in the area and perhaps they would make an announcement about it from their pulpits.

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[redacted] thought we should be careful not to get so many people to the Forum that it looked like we were padding it.

[redacted] didn't believe we could get so many people there that it would look like that and [redacted] agreed with him.

[redacted] asked [redacted] to report on the defense meeting for [redacted] that he had attended the previous Sunday.

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[redacted] said there was a meeting called at Community Church because [redacted] had been called before the H.U.A.C. There had been about thirty-two people attending, some being the [redacted]

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[redacted] reported that [redacted] had spoken and said altho they had differences with [redacted] that any ideological differences should be put aside to help [redacted] and others who might be victims of the McCarron law.

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[redacted] both spoke. [redacted] was a very different [redacted] then we had seen in the past. [redacted] said that his [redacted] had told him to go in & give the committee hell - but he didn't think this would be the right thing to do.

[redacted] said [redacted] had spent an entire evening with [redacted] and he guessed she'd convinced him not to go without the advice of a lawyer and how to act before the sub-committee in Washington.

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[redacted] said [redacted] had spoken and used his old line of attacking people & the party. This hadn't set too well with people there.

"He said [redacted] were put in charge of funds about 160.00 had been collected. Most of it comming from [redacted] friends. His mother had brought in 25.00 from N. H. This had been the only money comming in from N. H. for a long time.

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"He said [redacted] was chairman.

[redacted] said he thought something was started so far as a defense committee being established. He thought some of those attending & signing up for work were not party members.

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[redacted] said [redacted] would get in touch with either himself or [redacted] on the date for the next defense meeting which would be on Nov. 29 or 30. If she contacted [redacted] he would let [redacted] know. If she got in touch with [redacted] she would let [redacted] know.

[redacted] reported on the meeting he & [redacted] had with [redacted] on Fri.

[redacted] said before [redacted] arrived [redacted] had accused us (The Party) of using [redacted] said that all wants is an easy living and have [redacted] keep out of any controversy. He thought he helped to explain we weren't using [redacted] it was do to the fact that [redacted] was so capable in getting things done that she was in demand.

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BS 100-18969

[redacted] old how [redacted] had approached a Rabbi in Swamscott about the Emma Lazarus and he had asked her about the organization & its officers.

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[redacted] said [redacted] had told them she had been receiving anti-communist literature in the mail which told about what was happening to Jews in Russia.

[redacted] said she had been receiving this mail for a long time.

"Both [redacted] thought the F.B.I. sends out this literature.

[redacted] said in helping [redacted] out she would help him financially as much as she could. She had certain reservations about it tho and any contribution she made to him would be though party channels. She didn't think money comming in for defense funds should be turned over to [redacted] group. That she was afraid [redacted] his group might use a committee to exspouse their old line. The group agreed anyone could make a personal contribution to [redacted] if they wished, but [redacted] should keep defense funds seperate.

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[redacted] also said she didn't want anyone in [redacted] calling her on the phone from their home. She knew [redacted] both had been doing so and she thought it was a pretty stupid thing to do.

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[redacted] asked about the Fund drive. [redacted] said he intends to see [redacted] & try to get some money from him.

"Our next meeting to be [redacted] at [redacted] principally to check up & finalize plans for the [redacted]

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[redacted] advised [redacted] (FNU) [redacted] and (FNU) [redacted] mentioned herein.

[redacted] "New England Turn Toward Peace", 1 Mercer Circle, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts, which had been received by him through the mail. This is being placed in the 1-A section of the Boston file on Turn Toward Peace.

All necessary action has been taken with respect to information furnished above.

# Birch Society Labeled Not Conservative

*By a Staff Writer of  
The Christian Science Monitor*

The John Birch Society is not really "conservative" or "anti-Communist," said Gordon D. Hall, an authority on extremist groups, in a lecture at Boston University Tuesday night.

Such labels are "spurious" when applied to right-wing extremist groups such as the John Birch Society, he declared.

"What is conservative about a movement whose founder has set down for the record his contempt for parliamentary procedures and democratic processes?" asked Mr. Hall.

"What conservative movement in our history has ever created fronts and auxiliary movements [and] harassed public speakers . . . ?"

These techniques "have long been the stock in trade of Communist, Fascist, and Nazi tyrannies," he said. "They have been rejected by the genuine conservatives."

"The genuine conservative is devoted to the nation's traditions, with accompanying reverence and support for the Bill of Rights."

He noted that the John Birch Society has been used to attack the Marshall Plan, the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the mainstream of American Protestant church movements.

"Curiously enough," Mr. Hall added, "these are also targets of the Communists themselves . . . ."

He concluded that the answer to extremists in the United States "rests in elevating public opinion to the level where the vast majority of our citizens can separate fact from fiction, conservatives from irresponsibles, and Communists from modern Republicans."

The talk was sponsored by a co-ordinating group of Boston University student religious organizations.

~~BOSTON GLOBE~~, Boston, Mass.  
~~BOSTON HERALD~~, Boston, Mass.  
~~BOSTON TRAVELER~~, Boston, Mass.  
~~CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR~~, Boston,  
Mass.  
~~RECORD-AMERICAN~~, Boston, Mass.

Date: 12-6-61  
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John Birch Society

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DEC 7 - 1961

CC: Bureau

# MacLeod Says U.S.— Is Now 'Mobocracy'

Norman D. MacLeod, Kenyon industrialist and member of the John Birch Society, yesterday told the Providence Exchange Club that the United States has become a "mobocracy" and is headed for socialism, then communism, if patriotic men do not halt the trend.

The nation is threatened, he asserted, more by internal "duplicity, stupidity and treason" than by external danger, although that remains grave.

In the course of his talk, Mr. MacLeod criticized former President Eisenhower, President Kennedy, Time magazine, The Providence Journal and Dr. Barnaby C. Keeney, president of Brown University.

Mr. MacLeod repeated a charge made by Robert H. W. Welch Jr., founder of the John Birch Society, that former President Eisenhower, although not a member of the Communist Party, contributed greatly to its success.

Asked after the luncheon meeting in Johnson's Hummocks by a reporter for some specific examples, Mr. MacLeod said that when commander of Allied forces in Europe, General Eisenhower "willfully" turned over to the Soviets 2,000,000 Russians in concentration camps in Germany.

General Eisenhower did this, Mr. MacLeod declared, knowing full well that the fate of many of them would be a harsh one.

Mr. MacLeod said that Time magazine picked up its original version of the John Birch Society's existence from a Communist paper printed in San Francisco, the People's World. The magazine did this while ignoring the findings of its

own reporter who had been "entertained" at Belmont, Mass., and given detailed information, the speaker asserted. (Belmont is the society's headquarters).

Dr. Keeney was assailed by Mr. MacLeod for being quoted as saying that the Birch Society is secretive in its activities and given to slander of anyone with whom its members don't agree.

Dr. Keeney could easily have determined that this is not so, Mr. MacLeod remarked, by reading the Blue Book and other literature readily made available by his organization. All of its attitudes and goals are open to scrutiny by anyone, he said.

Later, during a question-and-answer period, Mr. MacLeod was asked how many members the Birch Society has.

"Nobody knows," Mr. MacLeod declared. "Bob Welch won't tell me and I'm a close friend of his."

His questioner persisted, "Then it's a secret?"

Mr. MacLeod replied, "Will you tell me how many members you have in the Masons or the Knights of Columbus?"

At one time earlier, Mr. MacLeod said that the society's postage bill weekly at Belmont is \$4,000. "That gives you an idea how big it's become," remarked Mr. MacLeod.

Another questioner asked Mr. MacLeod to name a few of the better known 600 Communist-front organizations he had said exist in this country.

"If you are interested I'll send you a full list," Mr. MacLeod replied. Then he added, "I'll name one, the Committee Against Militarism."

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

## PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, PROV. R. I.

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Editor: SEVELLON BROWN, III

Title: NORMAN D. MACLEOD  
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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FEB 1962

Cover Sheet for Informant Report or Material  
FD-306 (Rev. 2-21-58)

TO : SAC (100-7908)  
FROM : SA [redacted]  
SUBJECT: CPUSA, [redacted]  
IS-C

12/7/61

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Date received 11/6/61	Received from (name or symbol number) [redacted]	Received by SA [redacted]
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If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Dictated By

[redacted] in presence of SA [redacted]

Date of Report

Transcribed

Authenticated  
by Informant

Date(s) of activity

b6  
b7C  
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Brief description of activity or material

File where original is located if not attached

Remarks:

In view of the sensitivity of this informant, the utmost care must be utilized to carefully paraphrase this information prior to dissemination in order to protect the identity of this informant who has furnished reliable information in the past.

Informant's report follows:

LMM:lc  
(83)

11 - New York (RM)  
72 - Boston

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
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1 - 100-23825 (BEN DAVIS, Jr.)  
1 - 97-169 (PUBLISHERS NEW PRESS, INC.)  
1 - 100- [REDACTED] (CPUSA - YOUTH MATTERS)  
1 - 100-16021 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-16785 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100- [REDACTED] (HERBERT APTHEKER)  
1 - 100  
1 - 100 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100 [REDACTED]

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1 - 100-24914 (PHIL BART)  
1 - 100- [REDACTED] (JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)  
1 - 100-15889 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-775 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-26021 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-16028 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-18589 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-27949 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-10230 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-1749 (CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION)  
1 - 100-1350 (COMMUNITY CHURCH CENTER)  
1 - 100-33497 [REDACTED]  
1 - 105-5539 (FAITH PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE)  
1 - 100-15772 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-313 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-27388 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-13336 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-568 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-18576 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-19864 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-22939 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-5990 (JEWISH PEOPLE'S VICTORY FORUM)  
1 - 100- [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-1021 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-1213 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-548 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-875 [REDACTED]  
2 - 100-8086 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-1843 [REDACTED]

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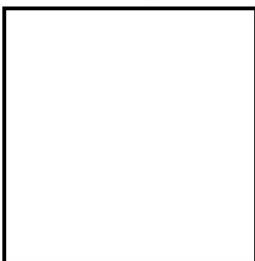
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BS 100-7908

2 - 100-New [REDACTED] (LNU)  
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1 - 100-8099 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-33784 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-33541 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-16341 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-870 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-281 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-926 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-28032 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-547 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-15786 [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-26827 (PUBLISHERS NEW PRESS, INC)  
1 - 100-17513 (CP - BRIEF)  
1 - 100-20779 (CP - ORGANIZATION)  
1 - 100-20778 (CP - MEMBERSHIP)  
1 - 100-16191 (CP - FUNDS)  
1 - 100-31648 (CP - COUNTER INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM)  
1 - 100-17999 (CP - SECURITY MEASURES)  
1 - 100-20787 (CP - FACTIONALISM)  
1 - 100-16410 (CP - POLITICAL ACTIVITIES)  
1 - 100-19374 (CP - LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES)  
1 - 100-23165 (CP - DOMESTIC ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES)  
1 - 100-26893 (CP - STRATEGY IN INDUSTRY)  
1 - 100-24111 (CP - NEGRO QUESTION)  
1 - 100-20781 (CP - YOUTH MATTERS)  
1 - 100-22468 (CP - CULTURAL ACTIVITIES)  
1 - 100-18169 (CP - INDUSTRIAL)  
1 - 100-18018 (CP - ROXBURY)  
1 - 100-18010 (CP - DORCHESTER)  
1 - 100-31935 (CP - SOUTH SHORE)  
1 - 100-18092 (CP - BROOKLINE-BRIGHTON-NEWTON)  
1 - 100-18058 (CP - RHODE ISLAND)  
1 - 100-31934 (CP - NEW BEDFORD-FALL RIVER)  
1 - 100-18035 (CP - WORCESTER)  
1 - 100-18969 (CP - NORTH SHORE)

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Index to 100-7908:



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Communist Party [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Those

b7D

attending were:

PHIL BART

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (was there until 1 o'clock)

"Before the meeting started [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] was taking tomorrow (Monday) off from work and going to New York to pick up [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] had waited over one-half hour for others to arrive. He usually meets them at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sometimes he picks up [REDACTED] and others at that spot.

"Most of the day was spent on the McCarran Law. There was a long report by PHIL BART on the law and discussion afterwards.

"PHIL BART started off by giving the dates that various parts of the law become effective, such as the labelling requirement as to literature, on October 29, 1961. He also said that defense industries were required to post a sign that it was a defense industry, although he did not have any word that that had been done. He said that on November 19, 1961, registration of the Party was required, that on November 29, 1961, officers of the Party would have to register, and that one month later, December 29, members of the Party would have to register.

"PHIL BART explained the definition of a Communist Party (CP) member. He said that under the law a member does not necessarily have to be a person who is paying dues to the CP, but a member can be anyone who helps the Party. He defined that further by saying that if a person rented a

hall to the Party he could be treated as a CP member, or that an outspoken liberal could possibly be called a communist under the Act.

"He told how the mailing end of the law required things be marked 'Communist Action Organization,' both on the literature and on the outside of the package -- that is, if it is sent to more than one person. [redacted] said the only way to get around that would be to send a chain letter. BART laughed and said that was a good idea.

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"BART said the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts is producing material on the law to be distributed. BART defended the Party by describing the CP as a defender for the Bill of Rights. He said they are not breaking the law, but are doing all they can to uphold the Constitution.

"He told of BEN DAVIS being refused permission to speak at a New York college, and of how 1200 students in the college had organized a meeting for the purpose of listening to a recorded talk by DAVIS. He said the recording had been obtained by students who went to see DAVIS at the Party office for the purpose of having DAVIS record such a speech, and although the students would rather have had BEN DAVIS in person in order to have a discussion, they at least were able to hear him talk.

"BART said there were three paid pickets in front of 'The Worker' office, with placards. He also mentioned that in the issue of the 'Nation' two weeks ago there was an article 'The Warfare State,' which people should read. He did not know whether copies could be obtained or a reprint had. He additionally mentioned that December 15 was Bill of Rights Day, and that possibly there should be some kind of activity in the area on that day. He said that this is a fight for the legality of the Party and believes that the Party will win eventually, although a few people may suffer during the struggle.

"On the mailing of literature, BART said that if the CP mailed the bible they would have to put on

the wrapper 'Mailed by a Communist Action Organization,' and that if the John Birch Society mailed the 'Communist Manifesto' they would not have to put anything on it. He said there were many public officials, such as representatives and congressmen, who are for upholding the McCarran Law, but, who, themselves, break laws in the South when it comes to the Negro people. He said that we must get away from 'calendaritis,' which, he explained, was the constant looking at effective dates of the McCarran Law, and, in the meantime, losing sight of work to be done. He said it is very necessary to work with others for the upholding of the Constitution and against the McCarran Act.

[redacted] gave [redacted] a copy of the 'Community Church News,' issue of November, 1961, which contained a calendar of events at the Community Church, and on which she had marked two programs as being of special interest, one on Wednesday, November 8, a 'Special meeting - Auspices of the Social Action Committee,' entitled 'Operation Abolition - UnAmerican Activities Committee,' speaker, MARSHALL KAPLAN, and the other, a Forum Supper, on Wednesday, November 29, 'The Sobell Case - A Miscarriage of American Justice,' speakers - SYDNEY SOBELL and DR. MAX KARGMAN. The 'Community Church News' identified the Officers and Board of Directors, 1961-1962, as follows:

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[redacted]  
[redacted] spoke and told of [redacted] being at the Boston Jewish People's Forum and at the Community Church, and also HERBERT APTHEKER.

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"PHIL BART queried [redacted] on this. He wondered if there could not be a little more cooperation so that the Jewish People's Forum and the Community Church would not be having the same speaker at approximately the same time and thus

drawing away from each other. [redacted] mis-interpreted BART's meaning and got a little perturbed at this remark, which he thought was a criticism of the Forum. [redacted] had had a struggle with [redacted] on the Forum, that the big sustainers in the Jewish People's Forum criticized [redacted] for wanting less Jewish speakers, and this had caused some friction, and apparently BART's remark hit a sore spot. BART did not mean it that way and explained his remark somewhat. In the afternoon he again explained what he had meant.

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[redacted] spoke. She said that many of the clubs had not been meeting. She said the FBI had been to see [redacted] and this resulted in the calling off of one meeting. The FBI had also seen other people in the Boston area.

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[redacted] spoke. He said the Dorchester group had discussed meeting places and had come up with two houses of Party people in which they could hold meetings, one was SID's and the other [redacted]. They also obtained three other houses of non-Party people to use as meeting places.

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[redacted] said that there is much opposition to the left. He mentioned the John Birch Society, and believes others will gather around General [redacted] against the Party. He said there were many other groups organized to work against the CP. He said, however, that this was not all bad, that it had a good aspect in that this opposition will give many people who are 'on the fence' an opportunity to think things out and decide which way they will want to go.

[redacted] told about [redacted] She said at an Executive meeting attended by [redacted] he expected that the CP would pay him a fairly good salary to write news for 'The Worker.' She said that 'The Worker' would not do that but the New England District had told BILL they would give him \$15.00 a week if he would write a story each week. This on a trial basis to see if it worked out. She said that [redacted] did not contribute anything the first week and the next week he contributed two articles which she said were practically taken from a daily newspaper. These were just announcements

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of speakers and items of general information so she sat down with [redacted] to explain what was needed. She told him he should write a story on the various peace groups operating and what they were doing, but she has not seen him since. She said he is in desperate straits, and that his health is bad. He is only working a couple of days a week and gets a meal a day by going to the home of a Party member each night. Sometimes he has supper at [redacted] and sometimes at [redacted] house.

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[redacted] She said someone also gave him an overcoat. [redacted] stated [redacted] had tried to get something from Social Security but had not had any luck. She wondered if they should speak to [redacted] to see if he could look into the matter and see if [redacted] was entitled to anything through Social Security. [redacted] said they could look into it but he did not think [redacted] had put enough into it to get anything out of it.

"PHIL BART asked [redacted] if [redacted] had gone to New York with the lawyers' group to discuss the McCarran Law. [redacted] said she had talked with him but did not know whether he had gone or not.

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"PHIL BART spoke again on the McCarran Law. His talk was mostly a repetition of what he had already said. He mentioned, however, of demonstrations and meetings in opposition to the Party in California by a reactionary group. He said this opposition was also prevalent throughout the country.

[redacted] spoke. He said he thought we realized the magnitude of the opposition to the CP but that as he sat there he tried to analyze what had been accomplished during the meeting without much success. He said it seems we have just passed over the fact that certain groups are not meeting, and that certainly if we intend to fight back we have to do it in a coordinated fashion. [redacted] immediately took over and started to delegate people to contact groups and see if they could get them to start meeting. She asked [redacted] if he could go to [redacted] to see if he could straighten out the situation in that area, and whether he could also take care of [redacted]. He said he would take care of both.

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[redacted] was asked about the [redacted]. He said he would rather go home and have a night's sleep than meet with those people - that it was just a waste of time. [redacted] said he would try to set up a meeting with the [redacted]

[redacted] gave a list of the various clubs, such as [redacted] (15 members); [redacted] (3 members); [redacted] mentioned [redacted] and [redacted] -- people under the influence of [redacted] and nothing was being done; [redacted] said that he would see [redacted] and find out what was being done there: [redacted]

[redacted] is to see [redacted] in [redacted] She asked [redacted] if they were meeting as one group on the [redacted]. He said 'Yes, but we have some we are having trouble getting together.'

[redacted] told about the recent Cuba meeting at which DON LOTHROP and Mr. GIBSON spoke, and at which there were about twenty-five agitators, some of them Cubans. He said that the police were there on the outside and inside and undoubtedly knew these people and were there to handle them. He said during the question period they asked questions and DONALD LOTHROP made them so ridiculous they left.

"PHILL BART said that over the past year there have been numerous people write in saying that they would like to be members of the CP, and that some have also approached Party leaders, for the same purpose. He said, 'We know that they are all phonies.'

[redacted] said the same thing had happened here, that he had been approached by people he had never seen before and knew they were phonies.

"PHIL BART said that [redacted] would be back soon. He has been to Russia and he hoped that possibly one of the Forum groups could use him in the area. [redacted] said she would have to find out if there were any open dates in the Jewish People's Forum or if he could be put on after the new year starts.

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"PHIL. BART made a critical statement in regard to [redacted] when he said that the only thing the people in the area have heard from [redacted] were such messages as, 'Having a good time.' 'It seems to me,' [redacted] said, 'that he would be interested in what is going on politically.'

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"The next meeting of [redacted]  
will be held on [redacted]

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[redacted] asked [redacted] when the next meeting or the [redacted] would be held. He told her [redacted]. She said she would try to make it, and would send him a card before that date telling him whether she would be down or not.

[redacted] said he could not make it because he works on Tuesday and Thursday nights and working sixty hours a week. His employer cannot hire more help because he does not have machinery and those who work there have to take the brunt of it.

"Mention was made of [redacted] showed a letter he had sent to [redacted] requesting that he write a critical statement of the letters attributed to [redacted] that have been sent out. He said he had heard nothing from him. He said he had also met [redacted] on the street and told [redacted] of his intention of sending him the letter. No one present had heard anything from [redacted]

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"During the meeting there was mention made that [redacted] car was in bad condition and that because he was unable to get a ride from anyone he was unable to attend the meeting. [redacted] said his car was also getting pretty shaky and that the rods were getting noisy. [redacted] said he has had three cars in four months and the one he has now is almost as old as he is.

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[redacted] said to [redacted] 'Before the last meeting I saw you and notified you there was going to be a meeting, as I did others, but when it came meeting night there were only three people there. [redacted] said that the way he worked - sixteen hours - it did make it hard to attend a meeting. [redacted] had a good excuse too, and [redacted] said that that just seems to be the way the meetings are going lately. They are set up and people notified and then they do not show up.'

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[redacted] said that [redacted] is not too good on community work but is a good organizer for the club.

"PHIL BART said that this is a period in which the Party leaders are not committing themselves to newspapers or TV men as to what office they hold.

[redacted] said that he was interested in what he meant by that because WBZ had called him where he works and wanted him to go on and give a statement on the Supreme Court decision. He said that he told them that he would not be able to take time off from work, but if they called him at 5:30 at home after work he would talk to them. He said they called him and he did go on for about five minutes. He said as far as he was concerned, he did not see why he should not say he is the [redacted]. He said before a judge he would not, but to a newspaper man or on TV he could not see why he should not say he was the [redacted]. PHIL BART said they were not doing that at the present time, that it was better to say that you are speaking for the Communist Party.'

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"PHIL BART said that the Government would like to get someone into the Party and have them hear from a Party leader that the Party leaders have records of dues paid and lists of membership.

"PHIL BART told [redacted] that instead of taking dues once a week or once a month, that she could take them every six months. He said she could forget dues not paid up and then bring them up to date at that time.

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[redacted] said that they have again talked to [redacted] is going to talk further on being a member of a defense committee. She did not elaborate, just mentioned it.

"PHIL BART said that [redacted] the lawyer, has spent considerable time each day reading the McCarran Law and continually finds new angles in the law. He said the Government uses trickery and gave as an example the income tax case pending in which the Government is still holding \$15,000 of CP funds.

Now in order to extend the time when that case would come to trial the Government has asked Party leaders if they would sign a paper extending the time limit. BART then asked, 'How can we sign our names on a paper like that without subjecting ourselves to the McCarran Law?' He said that he believed there would be two or three Party leaders arrested under this law as a test case and it would probably take several years in the courts. He said questions have been raised throughout the country as to what should be done in the matter of one's own finances and personal property, and that 'our' answer has been to hold such property jointly. He said his car is in his wife's name and by the time they get around to that the car will be ready for the junkyard.

[redacted] said that [redacted] would be meeting with [redacted] in view of his position as [redacted]

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[redacted] said [redacted] would have to find a job so it might take some time before he got into action.

[redacted] asked [redacted] if he was called on by the FBI and he said 'some time ago.'

[redacted] brought this up. He wondered if a defense meeting should be held in Boston. There was quite a bit of discussion as to whether that was feasible or not. [redacted] brought up the fact that there had been a meeting at the Hotel Bradford where seventy-five invitations were sent out and only twenty-five, including the speaker, ARNOLD JOHNSON, were present. [redacted] said that to his knowledge, there were five people from the [redacted] and this did not leave a very good showing for [redacted] area. It was decided not to hold such a meeting at this time, that it would be better to have further discussion on defense in the clubs.

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"In regard to Youth, [redacted] asked, 'What do you have to report on the youth role in defense?' PHIL BART said they were not taking them into the Party but are instead, guiding them so that when the Party has its legality established, it can increase its membership overnight.

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"PHIL BART left around 5 o'clock to go back to New York.

[redacted] was very sick and [redacted] could not attend the meeting. [redacted] told [redacted] that [redacted] could not make the meeting and VIC said, 'It will probably be all day, won't it?' and asked [redacted] 'What time will we have dinner?' [redacted] answered that he knew what time they would have dinner. It was obvious that he did not want to attend."

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Copies of this memorandum have been designated for Boston files or [redacted] inasmuch as it appears these individuals are possibly identical with [redacted] (LNU), [redacted] (LNU) and [redacted] or [redacted] (LNU) mentioned in informant's report.

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LEADS

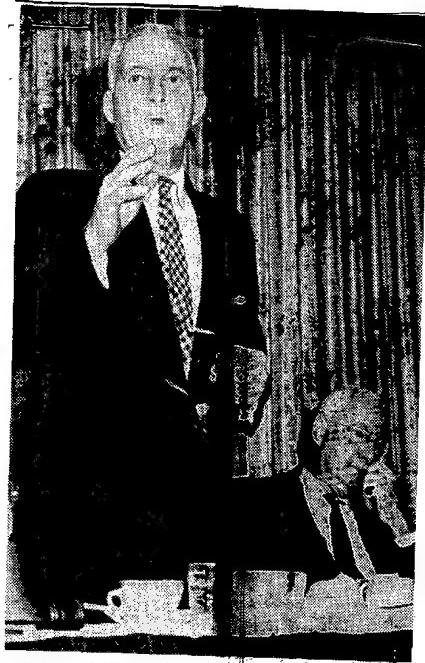
[redacted]  
Will reopen case on the sister of [redacted] and consider recommendation for inclusion in the Security Index in view of her identification herein by [redacted] with the [redacted]

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[redacted]  
Will open case for purpose of identifying [redacted] (LNU) mentioned herein in collection with the [redacted]

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[redacted]  
Will through established sources at [redacted] attempt to obtain [redacted] comments at time of interview by that station.



Norman D. MacLeod speaks to Exchange Club. At right is Herbert B. Carkin, who introduced the speaker.

*—Journal-Bulletin Photo*

HIS questioner remarked, "Could you mention any that are well known?" Mr. MacLeod replied, "I don't think I can name one right off that you might recognize."

Asked what the attitude of the Department of Defense is toward the Birch Society, Mr. MacLeod answered: "I'd say they don't like us."

Mr. MacLeod said that the United States was meant by its founders to be a republic and not a democracy. He made this distinction:

A republic, he said, "is a government which operates under

law." A democracy, Mr. MacLeod added, "is a government which operates under the dictates of men."

Today, the speaker declared, "we are governed by committees, commissions, Cabinet officers, and not by law. Democracy eventually becomes a mobocracy, mob rule, and from there goes to socialism, then communism."

'Starve Commies'

# Birch Founder Tells How, Why

By STANLEY EAMES

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● The United States can kill international Communism—without a war—just by starving it to death.

● The rift between Russia and China is only a Communist lie, and the Kremlin bosses can pick up a telephone and fire Mao Tse-Tung without notice.

● The Cuban invasion was a plot by Fidel Castro and his friends in the U. S. government to solidify his position throughout Latin America.

● And of all the people in the United States, Massachusetts residents are "the most provincially ignorant." New England as a region comes second.

These, and other equally controversial convictions, were voiced to The Herald this week by Robert H. W. Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, in an interview in his Belmont offices.

Welch, who catapulted to an uneasy and embattled sort of fame when he declared former President Eisenhower "a dedicated agent of the Communist conspiracy," has mellowed not at all.

(Continued on Page Four)

BOSTON GLOBE, Boston, Mass.  
BOSTON HERALD, Boston, Mass.  
X BOSTON TRAVELER, Boston, Mass.  
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, Boston, Mass.  
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CC: Bureau

(Continued from First Page)

The balding, intense caustic, giving his views in a machinegun staccato, also declared:

● The John Birch Society—of which he claims to be no longer the sole boss—is growing tremendously in strength, less rapidly in numbers, and can inspire a quarter-million letters on a hot topic.

● It has Communist and left-wing members, "and we would be naive not to think so."

● The average member, if there is such a thing, is a man in his 30's, or possibly his wife, and isn't rich or reactionary.

● His organization has no racial or religious bias, although he has attacked the idea of Communism within the clergy, and the few persons who have been drummed out of the Society have been dropped for bigotry.

### Highlights of Interview

A little thinner, looking a trifle worn but as earnest an exponent as ever of his unusual views, the former candy manufacturer who has been assailed as "a little Hitler" and "a slick demagogue," to name the more printable allegations, spoke frankly and at length in a question-and-answer interview.

These are its highlights:

Q.—What's happening to your organization these days?

A.—It has grown a great deal in the past year. Attacks in its early days perhaps spurred it on. As it continued and the attacks became more intensive and extensive—and came from higher places—our growth has slowed down in some areas and to some extent. While the Society is larger and stronger than a year ago, it hasn't increased in numbers over the past three or four months as it did in the preceding months.

Q.—Could you be arriving at a natural plateau of membership?

A.—Originally, we set our goal for one million. We learned in the first year, because of the solidity with which we build, the dedication and courage of our members, that our strength in proportion to growth—our strength per thousand—would be surprising. The impact of patriotic, conscientious Americans is great, when they work together and have standing.

### Audited Seven Ways to Sunday

Q.—Do you provide a public audit of finances?

A.—We have outside accountants audit us seven ways to Sunday, more thoroughly than any business would want. Copies go to every member of our Executive Council. Our only secrets are the names of members and who they are. We don't give the audit to the public, because it's so obvious what we have. Com-

munist and left-wing members. We'd be naive not to think so.

Q.—Do you put your own money into the Society?

A.—I don't have the money to put into it, but I've never drawn a cent of salary.

Q.—Is the Society self-supporting?

A.—I don't know quite what you mean by that. Our payroll for the two operations—the Society and the magazine, "American Opinion"—is \$12,000 a week.

"American Opinion," by the way, had 4000 paid circulation 18 months ago and it is close to 20,000 now. We have dues, contributions, life memberships and so on to sustain us. There are 41 people in our home office, 35 fully paid co-ordinators, 65 to 70 volunteer co-ordinators. It costs us \$1500 just to equip a co-ordinator. Remember, we're not tax-exempt. These days, no really anti-Socialist group could get tax-deductible status.

Q.—How many letters can you inspire in a given time?

A.—When Sen. Strom Thurmond wanted a Senate investigation of Gen. Walker's removal and the Fulbright memorandum, we and other patriotic groups—moving quickly—got out letters (in our case, to Birch chapter leaders) and in a day or two Washington had 20,000 letters. Following up, it grew to 150,000. We think we were responsible for the preponderance.

### 250,000 Letters in 10 Days

Last Saturday our Council voted to protest U.S. action in Katanga. Our people working with other anti-Communist groups (because we fight Communists and nobody else), will have, I think, a quarter-million letters in Washington within the next 10 days.

Q.—How powerful are you, politically? Can you elect or defeat candidates?

A.—The Society does not take any direct part in politics. Our purpose is educational. We have an indirect influence. We never favored or opposed a candidate.

Q.—What's the most important achievement of the year?

A.—"One Dozen Candles"—a series of pamphlets, reprints of books doing the best job in our area of effort. We brought them out in October. Any number of members have bought 100 sets (\$10 the copy) and one member and her friends are out to use 1000. They're now between 700 and 800.

(Note:—Authors represented are John T. Flynn, James Burnham, the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy, J. B. Matthews, Maj.-Gen. Charles Willoughby and the like.)

### Membership Mostly Young

Q.—Can you give us a composite picture of your average member? Are they, for instance, mostly rich?

A.—We have a lot of rich members, maybe a few more women than men, and a great number of married couples. Our membership is preponderantly young, half of them probably in their 30's, and they haven't filled their pile yet. A lot of college and high school students want to start chapters. We tell them to join adult chapters, with their money, and then we'll help them get started. It's a stimulus to wake up and see how the wool has been pulled over

their eyes.

Q.—There's been a lot of talk that this is a group basically anti-Semitic and racially bigoted.

A.—I'm as anti-Semitic as some of the Jewish writers we publish. I have as many Jewish friends as any Gentile alive. The few people who have been dropped from the John Birch Society have been dropped because they're racial or religious bigots. We're dropping a rabid anti-Catholic right now.

Q.—The Society has been described as a one-man show. What happens if you drop dead today?

A.—We're broken down into divisions of responsibility. Our Council is powerful; it meets regularly. A five-man executive committee meets with me every month. I've been disagreed with and have given in.

Q.—Who's the No. 2 man?

A.—There isn't any.

Q.—Has your approach become more moderate lately?

A.—No. It was always more moderate than the public was led to believe. We've been made to look rabid, partly by an irresponsible press.

### Question on Kennedy Avoided

Q.—Instead of working through fronts on vital issues, why don't you come out as the Society?

A.—A front is an ad hoc committee, a gathering place for

people who can agree on one thing and don't need to agree on others. The thing wrong with Communist fronts is their purpose, what they're for.

Q.—What do you think of the Kennedy administration? (Weber once described President Kennedy as an amoral man who could do a lot for Communism.)

A.—I'd rather not go into it. Certainly I'm not happy with a lot of things in this administration, including the Cuban invasion fiasco and Katanga, and such domestic issues as inflation and the budget. It's frightening.

Q.—What about your drive to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren?

A.—I wish everybody who criticized us could read "Republics and Democracies," one of our pamphlets. It wasn't personal vilification but a protest against usurpation of power. We were to

stop it in the only way we know. The Supreme Court has punched holes in the Constitution 20 ways since Warren took the robe. It's horrible to contemplate our republic turning into a democracy.

### All Governments More to Left

Q.—If judges can be impeached for unpopular decisions, where's the independence of the judiciary?

A.—We feel you're not stopped from criticizing by respect for the bench because otherwise your bad administrations are protected.

Q.—Are you sure what you consider to be the swift drive to socialism isn't a natural part of an irreversible trend?

A.—No, it isn't. Our governments have accelerated any such trend by 300 years or more. All governments move to the left but we've been pushed by conspiratorial hands long before any such thing is due by historical determination.

Q.—Do you have any hope for the United Nations?

A.—I never did. It was designed as the Fifth Communist International, and that's what it is.

Q.—In the differences between Russia and China, do you see any possibility that one day we may be allied with Russia against China?

A.—The idea of any rift between Russia and China, present or potential, is due to a complete misunderstanding of Communism, and efforts by Communists to promote it. Nothing could be sillier. The top men in the Kremlin could pick up a phone any time they want to and fire anybody in Red China. This is a sham, like that Tito "break."

### Society Weakest in New England

Q.—Where are you strongest and weakest?

A.—Strongest in Texas and California, weakest in New England, because the so-called upper crust of New England, especially in Massachusetts—socially, economically and so on—is the most provincially ignorant of what happens of any group in the United States.

Q.—A little more on that?

A.—Here you're working against a terrific bias or slant or lack of basic information. For that reason we've never worked very hard in New England.

Q.—Can you see any circumstances in which a preventive war against Russia or China might be justified?

A.—All we have to do to stop the Communists from taking over the world—and have it disappear, and have freedom revived—is to stop helping them. If our government would stop, the Communist advance would be stopped in six months. In another six months, the Communist movement would blow up.

Look at Cuba and Katanga. All we did in Cuba was help Castro. In Indonesia, we flew guns and ammunition to the Communist Sukarno. The Cuba invasion was planned by Castro and his friends in our government to make Castro stronger throughout Latin America, to reduce U.S. prestige, and to expose prematurely thousands of patriotic Cubans, for the purpose of killing off future resistance. We butted in, and we messed it up.

Q.—How do you feel about any Communist infiltration of the clergy?

A.—We believe the Protestant clergy has about 3 per cent of "Com-symps." Infiltration of the Catholics is harder and takes longer—no more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 per cent at the most. Clergymen don't become Communists. Communists become clergymen.

### *Rib* Government of Communists

Q.—Should we go it alone, or do you favor certain alliances?

A.—First let's get a government free of Communists and left-wing influences, which we haven't had for 15 years, and let it form its own alliances. When they're formed as a result of left-wing governmental planning it's silly to support them.

Q.—Then you can see the idea of foreign aid?

A.—I could see foreign aid to certain people under certain circumstances. Of course, foreign aid is better without the involvement of too much money or too many people.

Q.—Once you expressed the idea that the benevolence of businessmen would accomplish more for the welfare of the working man than all the government legislation possible. How do you feel now?

A.—You've got that wrong. It's self-interest, not benevolence. Benevolence is untrustworthy over the long haul. When Ford raised wages in 1912, if that trend had gone unchecked without government interference our biggest problem today would be to get enough labor. You could build a case that by today we would have had an unbelievably good pension system.

Q.—How's your golf game lately?

A.—I only got out three or four times this summer, but I shoot in the 90's, no matter what.



UPI Field Staff Photo by Daniel Murphy  
BIRCH COOPER'S VIEWS ON CONTEMPORARY LIFE

are expressed by federal Commissioner Robert H.W. Welton in ex-  
clusively personal interviews with Birch

TO : SAC, BOSTON (100-18969)

DATE: 12/28/61

FROM : SA [redacted]

SUBJECT: CP - [redacted]

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Date received

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Received by

11/29/61

SA [redacted]

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

in person

by telephone

by mail

orally

recording device

written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Dictated \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Report

Transcribed \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of activity

Authenticated  
by Informant \_\_\_\_\_

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Brief description of activity or material

File where original is located if not attached

Remarks:

In view of the sensitivity of this informant, the utmost care must be utilized to carefully paraphrase this information prior to dissemination in order to protect the identity of this informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past.

Informant's report follows:

7-New York (RM)

{ 1 - 100-56579 PHIL BART)  
{ 1 - 100-23825 BEN DAVIS)  
{ 1 - 100-4931 CPUSA)  
{ 1 - 97-169 PUBLISHERS NEW PRESS INC.)  
{ 1 - 100- [redacted]  
{ 1 - 100- CPUSA - YOUTH MATTERS)  
{ 1 - 100- [redacted]

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48-Boston (100-18969)

100-24914 PHIL BART

100-5431 [redacted]

100-32899 [redacted] ✓

100-15158 [redacted]

100-34119 [redacted]

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

BOSTON COMMITTEE FOR  
DISARMAMENT AND PEACE

100-23150 [redacted]

(Cont. Page 1-A)

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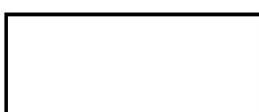
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COMMUNITY CHURCH CENTER

EMMA LAZARUS FEDERATION

FORUM - SAUGUS UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

(ENU) MEMBER NAACP)



CP - ORGANIZATION  
CP - USA, NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT  
CP - FUNDS  
CP - COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM  
CP - SECURITY MEASURES  
CP - FACTIONALISM  
CP - DOMESTIC ADM. ISSUES  
CP - STRATEGY IN INDUSTRY  
CP - NEGRO QUESTION  
CP - YOUTH MATTERS  
CP - NEW HAMPSHIRE  
NAACP

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[redacted] - [redacted] attended a section meeting of the Communist Party of the North Shore held at the [redacted]

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"Attending were [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] gave a report of the last D.C. meeting.

[redacted] told how Phil Bart talked on the McCarran law and gave the dates when the various aspects of the law come into effect.

[redacted] told how the Government according to Phil Bart had asked the officers of the Communist Party to sign a paper extending the time when the Government's income tax case against the Party.

[redacted] said that Phil Bart said that this was a way the Government thought they could get the officers of the Party to sign their names as officers of the Party.

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[redacted] said that Bart said that they could not sign such a paper.

[redacted] told how Bart reported that Ben Davis was refused permission to speak at a New York University and how 1200 students had set up a meeting and had gone to the Party headquarters and had Ben Davis speak before a recorder which was used at this meeting.

[redacted] told how [redacted] had reported that most of the clubs were not meeting regularly and how he [redacted] had told those attending the D.C. that they had skipped over an important comment by [redacted] when she said that the clubs were not meeting.

[redacted] said that the D.C. then assigned various members to see that the clubs did meet.

BS 100-18969

[redacted] told how [redacted] told of the reactionary groups which are springing up such as the John Birch Society and the followers of Gen. Walker.

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"He said that [redacted] said that this fact is not all bad but will help many people who are 'on the fence' to make up their minds.

[redacted] said that [redacted] had given him a circular of the Community Church which announced a coming meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Community Church, 'The Sobell Case - A Miscarriage of American Justice' with the speakers being Sydney Sobell and Dr. Max Kargman.

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[redacted] asked [redacted] to give a report on Peace.

[redacted] said she had not heard of anything new in the Boston Committee for Disarmament and Peace.

[redacted] said that she had been contacted by the Turn Toward Peace Committee and they had sent her some of their literature which she passed around for those attending to look at.

"One piece of literature was a leaflet entitled 'Turn Toward Peace' with a heading, 'Will You Help Initiate New England Turn Toward Peace?'

"The other was a card to be filled in and sent back with name, address, phone number filled in and a place checked if the person can volunteer time or contribute money.

"Both pieces of literature have the address 1 Mercer Circle, Cambridge 38, Mass. on them. Tel. UN 4-5893. Charlie asked Vic to report on the Forum at the Universalist Church in Saugus.

[redacted] said that he had seen [redacted] and the date for the first Forum has been set for Thursday, Dec. 7 at the church.

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[redacted] said the speaker will be a man by the name of [redacted] of the NAACP, who will speak on the negro in the labor movement, and the negro's chances in industry.

[redacted] said that we would be able to give this man ideas on what he would speak about and that this man would point out that at the General Electric Apprentice School there has never been a negro admitted to the school.

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[redacted] said that to enter this school a person has to pass a rigid test and that it is not just a question of who the General Electric desires.

[redacted] said he understands this but if a person could pass a college entrance exam they could pass the entrance exam for the Apprentice School.

[redacted] said that [redacted] and the Minister would see that notice of the Forum gets into the Lynn and Saugus papers.

[redacted] said we should be careful not to get too many people that we invite to the Forum to make it look as if we are 'padding' the Forum.

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[redacted] said that he does not believe we can get too many people there that it will look that way.

[redacted] replied that she thinks Charlie is right.

[redacted] asked [redacted] if he would give a report on [redacted] meeting on the previous Sunday evening.

[redacted] said that there were about thirty-two people present. He mentioned such people as - [redacted]  
[redacted]

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[redacted] and some Armenians as being present.

[redacted] said that [redacted] spoke and said that although they have differed with [redacted] they felt that all should put ideological differences aside and help others who are victims of the McCarran law.

[redacted] said that [redacted] spoke and [redacted] was very different than the [redacted] we had seen in the past. [redacted] said that [redacted] had said that [redacted] had told him to 'give the Sub-Committee hell' but he did not feel that this would be the right thing to do.

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[redacted] said that [redacted] had sat down an evening with [redacted] and she evidently had convinced him of how to act before the Sub-Committee in Washington.

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[redacted] said that [redacted] would be in charge of funds and [redacted] would be the chairman of this committee.

[redacted] said that he thought something had been established now as far as a defense committee was concerned and he thought that it was something that some of those attending and signing up as volunteers for work were not members of the Party.

[redacted] said that [redacted] would let either himself or [redacted] know on the date for a defense meeting which would either be Nov. 29 or 30th.

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[redacted] reported on the meeting of [redacted]  
[redacted] and himself with [redacted]

[redacted] said that before [redacted] arrived [redacted] had accused us of "using" [redacted] said that apparently [redacted] has the feeling he just wants to have an easy living and have [redacted] keep out of any controversy.

[redacted] told of how [redacted] had approached a Rabbi in Swampscott and how the Rabbi had asked her what the purpose of the Emma Lazarus organization was and who the officers were.

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[redacted] said that [redacted] had been receiving anti-Communist literature which depicts things that are happening to Jews in Russia.

[redacted] said she has been receiving this literature for a long time.

[redacted] both said they believe that the F.B.I. sends this literature out.

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[redacted] said in regard to helping [redacted] that she would help him financially as much as she could but felt that she should contribute through the Party.

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[redacted] also said that she does not want anyone in [redacted] calling her from their homes. She said she did not think this to be a smart thing to do.

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[redacted] asked about the Fund Drive and [redacted] said he intends to see [redacted] alone and try to get some money from him.

[redacted] said that at [redacted] meeting on Sunday evening about \$146 was collected.

"We set the date of the next meeting for [redacted]  
[redacted] to be held at [redacted]

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"At this meeting we asked to finalize plans for the Forum to be held at the Universalist Church in Saugus on Dec. 7th."

All necessary action has been taken with respect to information furnished above.

**Birch Society Included**

# Right Wing Group

*A-2*

## Organizing Feb. 2

By DONALD JANSON

(New York Times News Service)

TULSA, Okla.—Formation of a nationwide league of right-wing organizations will be announced Feb. 2, the Rev. Dr. Billy James Hargis said Sunday.

The purpose of the affiliation, he said, is to increase the effectiveness of the groups' fight against communism.

Leaders of the organizations to be represented in the new political "fraternity," he said, will meet regularly in Washington with conservative congressmen.

The chairman of the first meeting, he added, will be the congressman who suggested the affiliation. He said he was not at liberty to name the congressman.

Dr. Hargis, a Tulsa evangelist and director of the Christian Crusade, described in the group's literature as the nation's largest anti-Communist organization,

The Tulsa-based crusade will sponsor a "national anti-Communist leadership school" here on Feb. 2. Leaders of many of the ultra conservative groups in the country, including the John Birch Society and the National Indignation Convention, have enrolled, Hargis said in an interview.

As an example of how effectively conservative groups could work together, he cited a recent effort by his organization and the Birch Society to demonstrate "popular demand" for an investigation into charges that the Pentagon had "muzzled"

military officials who sought to speak out against Communism.

At the request of Sen. Thurmond, (D.S.C.), he said, the two organizations asked their followers to express their support for hearings. He said their appeals resulted in 147,000 telegrams and letters in three days. The result, he said, is the special Senate sub-committee hearings scheduled to begin next week.

The Birch Society and its leader, Robert Welch, are not extremists, Hargis said. But he added he disagreed with Welch's characterization of former President Eisenhower as "a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

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Wellesley Library Contest

## MINISTER TO OPPOSE JOHN BIRCH DIRECTOR

A Unitarian minister will oppose Lawrence Bunker, national director of the John Birch Society, for the unpaid post of Library Board trustee in Wellesley.

The Rev. William Brooks Rice of the Unitarian Church of Wellesley Hills was in effect drafted as a candidate by a petition containing more than 200 names. The petition is still circulating.

Bunker, a retired colonel and one-time aide to General Mac-

Arthur, is presently a library trustee. He will be up for reelection in March.

Mr. Rice made it clear that the sole reason for his opposition to Bunker was that of the John Birch Society.

"More than 200 people who don't think as the John Birch Society thinks have asked me to run," he said. "They believe the voters should have an alternative and the opportunity to oppose John Birch principles."

Both Col. Bunker and Mr. Rice, who is a former library trustee, were instrumental in getting the new Wellesley library built.

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 BOSTON TRAVELER, Boston, Mass.  
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# FACTS

NOV.-DEC. 1961, VOL. 14, No. 5—PUBLISHED BY THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH

## *The John Birch Society*

On Monday night, October 9th, approximately 1600 people gathered in the main ballroom of the gracious Garden City Hotel on Long Island, New York, to hear Robert H. W. Welch, the Founder of the John Birch Society, deliver a prepared one hour and 40 minute speech.

At least 25% of the room was filled with college-age men and women, and with upper middle-class couples in their early 30's. Most of the others were people who, from their meticulous dress, their social presence, had "arrived," economically speaking. Those who came without advance reservations had to wait to buy a ticket of admission—in a line four deep, almost a block long—for more than an hour before the meeting began. The audience was in no sense an assemblage of unemployed malcontents or crackpots.

During the course of his address, Welch turned the world inside out and upside down. He "proved" (at least to the satisfaction of many in the hall) that Communism is an evil imposed upon the masses across the world by the millionaire class; a method of enslaving the poor people who inhabit the earth. (It was difficult to believe that his listeners, dressed expensively, sporting jewelry, using '61 and '62 automobiles, could swallow the story.)

He explained his so-called "principle of reversal," by example. The legal decision, he said, handed down that very day by the U.S. Supreme Court, requiring the Communist Party to register against its will—that decision is no evidence the Court understands the evil of Communism; on the contrary, it is proof that the Supreme Court secretly approves Communism. (The Principal of Reversal: if a man admits he is a Communist—of course he is. If he denies it, he is only hiding the fact.)

The Birch leader's villains that night were the Republicans, the Democrats, Earl Warren, urban renewal, the United Nations, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. His hero was the late Senator Joe McCarthy.

Not a word of anti-Semitism passed Welch's lips; certainly none that observers could detect. He even avoided the kind of innuendo which the audience could interpret as a covert expression of anti-Jewish hostility. It is a fair conclusion that Robert Welch, himself not an anti-Semite, knows full well anti-Semitism can be a kiss of death.

The same, however, cannot be said for a large number of people in his Garden City audience that night. There was a question-and-answer period during which Welch had no control either over questions posed out loud or the reaction of the listeners to the questions. When one

person rose to his feet demanding to know "Who promoted Peres?"—this was a signal for knowing oohs and aahs across the room, and a sudden burst of approving applause.

During the course of his presentation, the Birch Founder had talked about the infiltration of Communist agents into the Protestant clergy, mentioning, in passing, that there was some of it too, in the Roman Catholic priesthood. This provoked, during the question-and-answer period, a query from a lady who wanted to know what the situation was among rabbis. Again, even before he could answer, the room reacted to the question with a quick, enthusiastic round of applause—applause which could only be interpreted as the audience's inarticulate way of saying, "Ah, now we are putting our finger on the real problem."

Apparently, ever Welch detected it, and after saying vaguely that he supposed there was some infiltration in the rabbinate, he added that there probably was also infiltration in the Moslem priesthood. This last comment was deliberately misinterpreted by his listeners. They reacted as if he were being humorously sly. They pretended that his answer was meant to convey to them: "Yes, the Jews are the core of the problem, but if we say it that bluntly, we will be charged with anti-Semitism. So let's blame all religions and with equal absurdity include the Moslems."

What is the John Birch Society, who is its leader, Robert Welch, and where do they fit into the American political scheme in this winter of 1961?

### *Structure and Organization*

Founded by Robert Welch in December 1958, the John Birch Society is a monolithic, centrally-directed organization with Founder Welch as its moving force.

At the start of 1961, it claimed to have chapters in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Independent research indicates this claim is probably substantially accurate, and that in any event, the John Birch Society has chapters in at least 27 states and the District of Columbia.

By far the greatest number of chapters are operating in the State of Texas. A rough count shows approximately 150 chapters there. California, Michigan, and Massachusetts appear to have 20-35 chapters each. Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon and Wisconsin have roughly 10-20 chapters each. Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee have about eight or nine chapters

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each. Kansas has a reported six chapters, Virginia has about five, and the rest of the states where chapters exist probably have less than five. Two major centers of strength are Greater Houston and Greater Los Angeles.

So far as can be ascertained, neither Welch nor his aides in the John Birch Society have ever made public the number of chapters they claim to have nationwide. Independent research indicates that the number of chapters may well be in the neighborhood of 500.

According to Welch and official John Birch Society publications, chapters are composed of 20 members, and when a chapter grows beyond that point, any additional members are incorporated into a new chapter which spins off from the old.

Calculating on the basis of 500 chapters and 20 members per chapter, it would appear that the John Birch Society may have a bedrock minimum of some 10,000 members. In addition, many members in states where there are no chapters belong directly to the so-called Home Chapter at Society headquarters in Belmont, Mass. It is of course impossible to estimate the number of members in the Home Chapter.

In newspaper reports, the membership goal of the John Birch Society was placed at some 100,000 by the end of 1961. The eventual goal sought by Welch, according to these stories, is 1,000,000 members.

The only figure on the total membership of the John Birch Society which has appeared in print and which has any semblance of authenticity was contained in an Associated Press dispatch from Washington, dated May 22, 1961. This item was based on remarks reportedly made by Representative Edgar W. Hiestand (Rep., Calif.) before the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives. According to the AP dispatch, Rep. Hiestand—an admitted member of the John Birch Society—estimated the Society membership at about 40,000 men and 20,000 women, or a total of 60,000.

On the basis of these figures, the annual dues received by the John Birch Society headquarters in Belmont, Mass. would appear to be a minimum of \$1,200,000 a year, and in all probability more, since many of the members are life members who pay dues of \$1,000 a year.

## Staff and Leadership

Besides Welch, who draws no salary, there are 28 full-time employees at Society headquarters in Belmont, Mass. In the field, around the country, there are some 35 full-time salaried employees serving as "area coordinators." They are responsible directly to Founder Welch. Area coordinators, generally, cover at least one state, and in some cases, a group of states.

## FACTS

Funds for the work of the Anti-Defamation League are raised through the Joint Defense Appeal.

is a periodic report by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 515 Madison Ave., New York 22, N.Y. Officers: Henry Edward Schultz, chairman; Meier Steinbrink, honorary chairman; Barney Balaban, A. G. Ballenger, Jacob J. Davis, Phillip K. Dick, Herbert Lehman, Lovinsen, William Sach, Dore Schary, Melvin J. Schlesinger, Jess Steinberg, honorary chairman; Dr. Goldstein, Herman L. Levy, Dr. A. M. Lieberman; Benjamin Greenberg, treasurer; Herbert Levy, secretary; Benjamin R. Epstein, national director; Paul H. Samlin, chairman, executive committee; Joseph Cohen, vice-chairman, executive committee; Label A. Katz, president, B'nai B'rith; Maurice Bisgier, executive vice-president, B'nai B'rith; Bernard Nath, chairman of civil rights committee; Arnold Forster, general counsel and civil rights director.

Domestic report issues of Facts are edited by Milton Ellerin, director of The Fact Finding Dept. Special acknowledgement to Jerome Bakat for research and editorial assistance in preparation of this report.

Welch himself selected the members of the National Council and the Committee of Endorsers, as well as the small Executive Committee of the Society.

There are no elections whatsoever in the entire structure of the Society. The picture that emerges is one of a tight, centrally-controlled, dedicated and efficient organization—whatever the actual membership and chapter strength of the Society may be. The rate of growth is obscured by the successful effort of Welch to hide the actual numerical strength of the Society.

## Finances

Dues for membership in the John Birch Society are \$24 a year for men and \$12 a year for women. A so-called "life membership" in the Home Chapter—which automatically covers membership in any local chapter—costs \$1,000. In addition, Founder Welch appeals for voluntary contributions from all members who can afford it—over-and above-their regular monthly dues. He has set up a system of "members' monthly messages"—envelopes in which members can enclose their voluntary contributions, along with any suggestions or messages they may wish to send him directly.

There are, of course, no detailed financial reports available on the operations of the John Birch Society. No one knows how much of Welch's personal resources went into the Society. Nobody knows how much the eleven wealthy men who attended the founding meeting of the Society at Indianapolis in December 1958, contributed then—or have contributed since. Presumably they—and most of the members of the National Council who number 26—are life members of the Society, and pay the \$1,000 annual dues for a life member. A few persons on the Committee of Endorsers from the several states appear to have sufficient financial status to warrant life memberships. All in all, it would appear that Welch can count on at least \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year from life members, not including any supplementary contributions they may make.

The payroll and expenses for the nation-wide staff of approximately 63 men and women—plus his extensive printing and mailing operations—tend to support the impression that the John Birch Society today is probably a \$1,000,000 a year operation, or more.

## National Reaction

Hundreds of thousands of words of exposé material and editorial criticism have been lavished by the nation's press on the Birch Society and Founder Welch, and a tremendous amount of air time and film footage have been devoted by radio and television to coverage of developments involving the leader and his organization. Columnists—all shades of political opinion—have criticized Welch and the Society. Prominent individuals, from President Kennedy down, have expressed or implied criticism of the Founder and his movement.

In general, the major points that have been made against Welch and the Society in this tremendous outpouring center around:

- Welch's view of former President Eisenhower, his brother Milton, the Dulles brothers, and some other leading Americans as Communist agents or dupes.
- Welch's call for the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren.
- The secret, or semi-secret nature of the John Birch Society.
- Welch's scorn for democracy.
- The degree of Communist infiltration which Welch and his followers claim to see in American domestic life.
- The tactics which Welch advocates—such as infiltration, penetration and take-over of local civic groups like the PTAs, and the harassment of local school and library officials.

Welch, in writing his own members about the outburst of criticism directed against him and the Society, views it as a Communist-inspired smear campaign which is being aided and abetted by Communist dupes and sympathizers. The fact is that newspapers ranging from the conservative Los Angeles Times to the liberal New York Post have joined in criticizing Welch, his views and his Society. The same is true of columnists, ranging from conservatives such as George Sokolsky, Arthur Krock and Raymond Moley—to liberals such as Marquis Childs, Max Lerner, Eric Sevareid and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Among prominent national leaders, besides the President, critics have included Attorney General Kennedy, former Vice-President Richard M. Nixon, Senators Thomas Dodd of Connecticut and Milton Young of North Dakota, the National Council of Churches, the United Presbyterian Church, the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church, and such leading Episcopalian clerics, as Bishop James A. Pike of Los Angeles and Bishop Horace Donegan of New York.

Among Roman Catholics, critics have included Msgr. George B. Higgins, Director, Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, Rev. John B. Sheerin, editor, Catholic World, and such official archdiocesan papers as The Boston Pilot, New World (Chicago) and Visitor (Providence, R. I.). Commonweal has also published a critical editorial and other material, as has Ave Maria.

## The Birch Society and Anti-Semitism

There is nothing in the Society's program or in its published material that espouses anti-Semitism. There is nothing in Welch's own record to suggest any personal anti-Semitism on his part. In short, anti-Semitism is not a stock in trade of Welch or of the John Birch Society.

Nevertheless, there are indications that Welch and the Society have a blind spot—which makes it possible for some anti-Semites and a certain degree of anti-Semitism to creep into the Society's activities and membership.

The best that can be said is that Welch and the Society are "non-anti-Semitic." Welch claims to be "anti-anti-Semitic" but the facts indicate that despite his protestations, he has not been alert to the presence in his organization of individuals with known records of anti-Semitism, and individuals with known records of support for—or associations with—anti-Semites or anti-Semitic organizations. Furthermore, he has himself indicated in his own actions a lack of awareness with respect to anti-Semites and anti-Semitism.

What are the facts in the record of Welch and the John Birch Society so far?

- In 1952, Welch wrote a booklet called "May God Forgive Us" in which he cited a pamphlet by Joseph P. Kamp as a source.

- In 1954, Welch wrote "The Life of John Birch" and admits he paid Kamp \$100.00 to check the manuscript for inaccuracies.

(Welch contends that he did not know of the widespread allegations of anti-Semitism against Kamp as of 1952 and 1954 and that since he has learned of those allegations, he has had no further dealings with Kamp.)

- Some sections of Welch's "The Politician"—the "letter" Welch wrote for private circulation in which he claims that Dwight Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy"—are borrowed directly from Kamp's "Headlines" issue of March 15, 1952. (This was a pre-Publication convention smear blast, replete with anti-Semitic innuendo, issued by Kamp against General Eisenhower.) Some sections of "The Politician" appear to have been taken from Kamp almost verbatim, including some tainted portions.

- "The Politician" cites Merwin K. Hart, a long-time anti-Semite, as an authority, and praises the vehement and blatant anti-Semite, Lucille Miller, of Bethel, Vt. It is clear that Welch's reference to her was written after 1955, when her record of anti-Semitism was quite public and had been clearly referred to in the public prints. Welch, however, simply refers to Mrs. Miller as "a patriotic but not too cautious Vermont woman."

- "The Politician" contains some gratuitous and snide innuendos regarding men in public life of which the following are examples:

a) Referring to Arthur F. Burns, President Eisenhower's economic adviser, Welch states that Burns was "born and raised in Russia." Even if true, this would be gratuitous, except that Welch was trying to make the point—as he states—that Burns' job as economic adviser was probably "a cover-up for Burns' liaison work between Eisenhower and some of his Communist bosses." (Fact: Arthur F. Burns was born in Stanislaus, Austria, April 27, 1904, according to "Who's Who in America," Vol. 31, 1960-61.)

b) Referring to Simon E. Sobeloff, former Solicitor General of the U.S., appointed by President Eisenhower to the Court of Appeals, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Welch refers to Sobeloff as having been born and raised in Russia. (According to "Current Biography," 1955, page 565, Sobeloff was born in Baltimore, Maryland.)

c) Welch refers to C. Douglas Dillon, now Secretary of the Treasury, and a former ambassador to France, as "Clarence Lapowski, alias Clarence Dillon." (Dillon's paternal grandfather, Samuel Lapowski, emigrated from Poland to Texas and changed his name to Dillon—two generations before C. Douglas was born. Mr. Dillon is an Episcopalian.)

d) Welch writes of Edward S. Greenbaum, (an Eisenhower Alternate Delegate to the U.N.) this way: "Greenbaum is a close friend of Sam Roseman, and a law partner of Morris Ernst. It hardly seems that anything more needs to be said."

e) Welch describes C. D. Jackson, publisher of *Life Magazine*, as "C. D. Jacobson, alias C. D. Jackson." (There is no indication in "Who's Who in America," Vol. 31, 1960-61, or in "Current Biography," 1955, or in any other authoritative source that C. D. Jackson's original name was anything other than Jackson. In any case, the reference seems to be a snide irrelevance.)

● Welch has recommended two anti-Semitic publications to his membership—Merwin K. Hart's Economic Council Letter and the "American Mercury" magazine, after it had been converted from a once great name in magazine circles to a frequent vehicle for the dissemination of anti-Semitic innuendo and worse. The recommendation of Hart's publication in the November 1960 Bulletin took place after Welch had been advised of the anti-Semitic history of Merwin K. Hart and his Economic Council Letter.

● The New York Post (issue of May 22, 1961) identified Hart as leader of John Birch Society Chapter 26 in New York. That chapter was identified, in a letter from Vice Admiral C. S. Freeman, a long-time Hart associate and a member of the Society's Committee of Endorsers for New York State, as "the oldest Chapter in the New York area." The Post article said that copies of Hart's Economic Council Letter were available at the May 9, 1961 meeting of Chapter 26, held at headquarters of Hart's National Economic Council, 156 Fifth Avenue.

● Some members of the National Council of the John Birch Society have the following records:

a) Spruille Braden of New York, former U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, was listed in 1958 as a director of Hart's National Economic Council.

b) Ralph E. Davis of Los Angeles. Listed as a director of Hart's National Economic Council in 1955.

c) Prof. Revilo P. Oliver of the University of Illinois. Shared the speakers platform in February 1961 with Kenneth Goff, a notorious anti-Semite, at the so-called Midwest Christian Patriots Convention in St. Louis. In April 1961, Oliver addressed the convention of Kenneth Goff's "Soldiers of the Cross" at the Raleigh Hotel in Washington.

d) Paul Talbert of Beverly Hills, California. Paid \$120 to Gerald L. K. Smith's Christian Nationalist Crusade during the calendar year 1959.

● For several months during 1959, Welch used the services of Willis Carto in an executive or organizing capacity. Carto apparently worked out of Society headquarters in Belmont, Mass. For about five years, he was executive secretary of an extreme rightist group called "Liberty and Property" which published a newsletter called "RIGHT." This periodical was an outlet for anti-Semitic propaganda and a clearing house for information about the activities of anti-Semites and anti-Semitic organizations.

● Anti-Semitics and anti-Semitism are beginning to show in the John Birch Society at the local level.

a) David Harmon, who said he was a full-time paid Society organizer covering Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, was quoted by the Minneapolis Star of May 20, 1961, as saying at a Society meeting in Bloomington—a suburb of Minneapolis—that "even if most Jews are Communists, there are still a lot of good ones."

b) Theodore W. Miller of Chicago, an attorney with a long record of identification with anti-Semites and anti-Semitic causes, is listed as a member of the Society's Committee of Endorsers for the State of Illinois. Among the notorious anti-Semites with whom Miller hob-nobbed in the 1940s were Joe McWilliams, Elizabeth Dilling and Gerald L. K. Smith.

c) Miss Olive Simes is listed as a member of the Society's Committee of Endorsers for Massachusetts. For a number of years, one O. Simes of Boston and/or Petersham, Mass., has been listed by Gerald L. K. Smith as a contributor to his Christian Nationalist Crusade. According to Smith's reports, O. Simes contributed \$140 in 1955, \$285 in 1956, \$200 in 1957, \$160 in 1958, \$205 in 1959 and \$160 in 1960.

## **Welch on Anti-Semitism**

Welch has gone out of his way to deny—and with some vehemence—any anti-Semitism on his own part or that of the Society. The April 1961 issue of the Society "Bulletin" contains a long denial by Welch of any such anti-Semitic taint. He asserts that "the most vicious and most extensive charges ever levelled against me have been made by such notorious anti-Semites as Lyrl Clark Van Hyning (Women's Voice) and Elizabeth Dilling (The Dilling Bulletin) on the grounds that my various committees and supporters are nothing but a 'bunch of Jews and Jew-kissers'."

He then goes on to point out that some of his closest associates and advisers are Jewish: William Schlamm, a writer; Julius Epstein, an author; Morrie Ryskind, writer; the late Alfred Kohlberg, a leading figure for many years in anti-Communist causes; and Rabbi Max Merritt of Los Angeles, an active leader of the American Jewish League Against Communism.

Another point in Welch's denial of anti-Semitism refers to the fact that in his long years in the candy industry, a large percentage of his customers were Jews. He says he sold them goods, travelled with them, drank coffee with them in their kitchens at midnight, went to formal dinners with them, borrowed money from them when he needed it in the early days, and loaned them money later when he had it. He says he never stopped to think where they worshipped. And one day, he continues, when the thought occurred to him, he says he "took pride in the belief that I probably had more good friends of the Jewish faith than any other Gentile in America."

Welch then turns to the allegation of anti-Semitism against him, which—at the outset of his statement—he terms "the third stage of the attack . . . against your Founder." Let's look, he says to his readers, "at what the propagandists can bring forth to support their accusation." The accusation, he adds quickly, "has to be cut almost completely out of the whole cloth of fabrication" but he concedes that "there are three extremely tenuous threads" he has seen being used to hold the accusation together.

He then turns to the charge—as he states it—"that I quote, and use materials from Joseph Kamp, whom everybody is supposed to recognize as a notorious anti-Semite." On this point, Welch avoids the direct issue, simply stating that whether or not Kamp is an anti-Semite is none of Welch's "present business." (Exactly why the question of Kamp's anti-Semitism is none of Welch's business is difficult to understand, especially in view of Welch's presumed eagerness to deny his own anti-Semitism and his concern that the John Birch Society never "become an agency or even a haven of anti-Semitic feeling so long as I am directing its policies.")

Welch then goes on to offer a series of rebuttals to the report of anti-Semitism. Typical is this: One feature of the Society is that he has the right to drop anyone from membership at any time without giving a reason. This has been used twice, he explains. One of the two instances involved a man who had taken over a certain local Society chapter and was gradually converting it into "a hotbed of anti-Semitism"—or was at least trying to.

The final main point in Welch's "rebuttal" is "simply

that I am not anti-Semitic, never could be, and could never allow the John Birch Society to become an agency or even a haven of anti-Semitic feeling as long as I am directing its policies." Welch adds that he is "often told that too large a percentage of Jews are Communists and too large a percentage of Communists are Jews. Welch answers those who complain to him about the identification of Jews with Communism by replying that too large a percentage of Methodists and Frenchmen are Communists but he doesn't blame all Methodists or Frenchmen for that. He adds: "I feel it is equally absurd and unfair to blame all Jews because some Jews are Communists."

The concluding section of Welch's statement denying anti-Semitism is, in effect, a warning. "There is only one real danger in the charge of anti-Semitism today, to the man who actually is *not* anti-Semitic. It is that the utter (and in some cases malicious) unfairness of the charge may cause him to react with anger against Jews in general, and then begin to let some of his feelings creep into his writings or his speeches."

## **Some Evaluations**

There have been many extremist groups on the American scene over the last 25 years. Almost without exception, they have been active for a period of time and then have dwindled or disappeared. The activities of some of these groups have been confined to the publishing and circulating of radical right-wing literature with no special attempt at membership recruitment and organization at the grass-roots level.

Other ultra-reactionary groups have tried to organize a membership following nationally, but their efforts have generally been unsuccessful and they have become—almost without exception—organizations composed of a relatively small number of "leaders" scattered around the country.

Many of these groups have attracted individuals with records of anti-Semitism. The pattern has been clear enough over the years to make it likely that any new extremist right-wing organization is a potential gathering-place for anti-Semites and a potential vehicle for the dissemination of anti-Semitism—whether by word of mouth at meetings, or via printed literature which such organizations may publish and distribute, or which may be published and distributed by their members.

While the John Birch Society conforms to the pattern insofar as it has become tainted with anti-Semites, it is unique in several all-important respects:

- It is the first right-wing extremist group in many years that is well-organized and that has had any degree of success in recruiting members at the grass-roots level and on almost a nationwide scale.
- It is adequately financed by dues on a continuing basis, unlike other extreme right-wing groups which have frequently languished, not only for lack of organization at the grass-roots, but for lack of adequate financing. In some instances, these organizations were entirely dependent on financial support on one, or a few, well-to-do individuals.
- The Birch Society has an on-going program of action and activity for its membership, with monthly instructions and assignments sent to all members, and with regular local chapter meetings.

- Welch, who is the supreme boss and who obviously has a talent for organization, has a sound business head, and a capacity for attention to detail and for hard work that distinguishes him from other ultra-reactionary leaders of the past.
- Leaders of the John Birch Society at the grass-roots level are, by and large, people of some status and financial solidity in their communities. Regardless of their extremist viewpoints, they tend to be persons who are sufficiently respectable and influential at the local level to be able to exert considerable pressure when they choose to do so in their communities.
- The Society may be benefiting from the reported wave of interest in "conservatism" that allegedly has emerged in the United States since the election of President Kennedy and may—in a sense—be riding the crest of that wave.

### ***Anti-Democratic Structure***

Because of these six factors, unique for an extremist movement, the concerns about the organization cannot lightly be brushed aside. Let's examine why:

Mr. Welch has declared: "Democracy . . . in government or organization . . . is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery and a perennial fraud." Mr. Welch has also declared that "the United States is not a democracy but a republic, and we ought to keep it that way."

The Birch Society regards democracy as an evil and as a sure road to Communism. It does not respect democracy, its political and ethical concepts, or the integrity of its institutions. In this connection, the Society is guilty of attempts to pressure our courts of law by threats of impeachment. Whether the target be the Chief Justice of the United States or the lowliest police magistrate, this is a fundamental violation of our constitutional concepts and harmful to the American form of government.

In our country voluntary agencies traditionally play an important role—for good or evil—and the John Birch Society is the latest voluntary negative movement in America. We have had Coughlinism, America First and the McCarthy movement—and now their successor, Birch. It is a radical right-wing organization, composed of a small band of extremists on the fringe of American political life, which sees all problems in conspiratorial terms. But this one has two features the others lack: a leader with a great capacity to organize and a technique of semi-secrecy—and secrecy of action through "front organizations."

The John Birch Society is part of a larger movement, the major section of which is not quite as irresponsible. While clearly the most notorious and best publicized of the radical right-wing groups on the American scene—it is only one of many new ones on the far right. Some 206 groups—from conservative to extremist right-wing—have sprung up in the United States, most of them within the last two years. Of the 206, there were 19 new ones in 1960, and 79 in 1961; more in the first ten months of this year than in any similar period in the last twenty years.

To sum up its strength—in less than three years the Birch Society has developed a gross annual income of about a million and a half dollars from dues, life memberships, special contributions, and the sale of literature. Although it will release no membership fig-

ures, experts in the field say that those who pay dues number about 60,000. Its paid staff consists of approximately 63 men and women. Thus, while substantial, the movement is obviously not quite as big as its press notices would indicate. The fact is that the Society garners extravagant amounts of publicity by Welch's outrageous charges of Communism against such Americans as former President Eisenhower, the late John Foster Dulles, or an unidentified group of several hundred Roman Catholic priests. (For instance, Monsignor Francis J. Lally, editor of "The Pilot" in Boston, was among the American editors who spoke up in an excellent editorial, published on October 14th, in defense of the Catholic clergy after Mr. Welch at Garden City in effect charged 273 Catholic priests with being Communists.)

Mr. Welch contends that the Communists are responsible for precipitating the press attack upon his organization—part of the conspiracy, of course. It was, he claims, triggered by a "signal" given in an article published on February 25, 1961 in the Communist "People's World" which circulates on the West Coast. He referred to that article as the "mother piece" for all that followed, adding that Time Magazine was the first in line.

But his charge does not square with the facts. The plain truth is that the "People's World" was a "Johnny-come-lately." Back in July 1960, newspapers in the Midwest uncovered and published the details of Welch's accusations in his then-secret manuscript "The Politician."

The John Birch Society would never have received its nation-wide notoriety if its Founder had not written "The Politician"—the book he called a confidential letter—with its outlandish allegations of treason. However, under any circumstances, some of its leadership stands sufficiently high in the community power-structure to win the group a hearing from newspaper editors. Local leaders and members of the Society are, in many cases, people of financial responsibility and social status in their communities, often able to exert considerable influence and impact at the local level.

In affirmation of his hatred of democracy, Mr. Welch has structured his Society in an un-democratic fashion: The organization is centrally-controlled and tightly run by the Founder himself. Everything operates from the top down; Mr. Welch picks his national organizers for the Society; they report directly to him; chapter leaders report to national, regional or local organizers picked by Mr. Welch or his agents.

### ***The Conspiratorial Outlook***

If the authoritarian structure of the Birch organization is elementary, its basic premises are primitive: First, it believes in the *conspiratorial theory of history and politics*. Conspiracy is always the answer. Second, it believes that the Communist conspiracy has already captured control of most of the world—including the United States—and because it is already victorious here on our shores, battle must be done to recapture the country from the enemy.

That both premises are false is patent and demonstrable.

Perhaps not all Welch followers agree with everything he says. Some Birchites have gone to great lengths to disassociate themselves from his views about General George C. Marshall and other great American leaders he has sneered. They say these views are personal, not organizational. The contention is untenable—because, by his own statements, Welch has made it clear that *he* is the Society—that the Society is a monolithic organization in which *he* is the central moving spirit. Any attempt to separate the two fails.

If the Society's members are uneasy or embarrassed by his more sensational views, they nevertheless live in the same political fantasy-land with Mr. Welch. It is a world whose inhabitants assume that there must be solutions that will produce victories on the international scene and will resolve all our domestic problems. If no easy solutions are forthcoming, there must somewhere be a conspiracy preventing it. They see the world around them—the churches, the press, radio and television, the unions—almost all the established institutions in our free society—in the grip of Communist conspirators, or their sympathizers.

Those who disagree with this view are naturally a part of the conspiracy, for there can be no honest basic differences of opinion: you are a Bircher—or you are a Red, or a tool—and this applies to anyone from Republican to left-wing Socialist. Most ridiculous of all, the Birchers view the government itself—and its political leaders—as just another part of the same pack of Communist agents or dupes—few of them to be trusted.

### The Communist Parallel

A most striking and significant feature of the Society is that many of its campaigns parallel those of the Soviet Communists. The Society would seek to destroy, among other things, NATO, the United Nations and the vital American system of economic and military aid to underdeveloped countries. These are also precisely the aims of the Soviet Union in its efforts to weaken the United States throughout the world. Let's look at the parallels:

- 1) NATO: The Soviet would smash NATO so that it could not protect against Communist intrusion upon Western Europe . . . Birch would take U.S. troops out of NATO, making it incapable of protecting against Communist intrusion upon Western Europe.

- 2) The United Nations: To capture control of it, the Soviet insists upon the right of veto, even in the administration of U.N. work . . . Birch would take the United States out of U.N., leaving the Soviet in control of it, including administration.
- 3) Foreign Aid: The Soviet tries to persuade underdeveloped countries to reject American economic and military assistance . . . Birch would withdraw such American assistance from underdeveloped countries.
- 4) The Communist Menace: The Soviet argues that Communism is not an external threat to the United States . . . Birch argues that Communism is more an internal threat than an external one.
- 5) The Race Problem: The Soviet would convince Asian and African nations to turn their backs on the United States because of its alleged pro-racist policies . . . Birch would impeach Earl Warren for his anti-racist decisions.
- 6) Social Justice: The Soviet does not believe in it . . . Birch is opposed to civil rights and the religious gospel of social rights.
- 7) The Front Organization: The Soviet attempts to use "fronts" as an essential tool in the dissemination of its propaganda in the United States . . . Birch advocates the use of "fronts" as a technique for propaganda purposes.
- 8) The Communist Party: In the Soviet it is a monolithic, totalitarian movement with no dissent permitted to its followers from the principles laid down by its leader . . . Ditto for the Birch Society.

The reason for the recent appearance of many right-wing organizations on the American scene—and for the success (such as it is) of the Welch movement—is a complex of things: the frustrations of the American people; the troubles we are having with Russia; the problems in Berlin, Laos and Cuba; the American lag in rocketry, long-range missiles, the space race—in short, the cold war. And on the domes'c front: high taxes, rising living costs, the integration struggle, and so on. For all these difficulties, the Birch movement offers a single, simple solution—tear down everything that's up.

Welch's organization has no future in America. Eventually, it will go the way of all know-nothing movements. Once its character is completely understood by the American people, the organization is doomed to failure. They will inevitably reject and repudiate it as an unwholesome political growth in American soil. In the nature of things, the United States will eventually evolve adequate and proper remedies for its international and domestic problems. At that point Americans will turn their backs on Robert Welch and his John Birch Society.

## Appendix

### LEADERSHIP AND STAFF OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

#### I. Incorporators

Robert Welch, Belmont, Mass.  
—President and Treasurer  
Marion Probert Welch, Belmont, Mass.  
Elen M. Lovett, Cambridge, Mass.  
—Clerk or Secretary  
Ellen Douglas Snow, Belmont, Mass.  
Philip L. Jenkins, Brockton, Mass.  
Juliette D. Guild, Hingham, Mass.  
Mary M. White, West Concord, Mass.

#### II. National Council

Dr. N. E. Adamson, Jr., Boston, Mass.  
Thomas J. Anderson, Nashville, Tenn.  
T. Coleman Andrews, Richmond, Va.  
Spruille Braden, New York City

Col. Laurence E. Bunker, Wellesley, Mass.  
F. Gano Chance, Columbia, Missouri  
S. J. Conner, Chicago, Ill.  
Ralph E. Davis, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Dr. S. M. Draskovich, Chicago, Ill.  
Rev. Richard Ginder, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
William J. Grede, Milwaukee, Wisc.  
A. G. Heinsohn, Jr., Knoxville, Tenn.  
Dr. Granville F. Knight,  
Santa Barbara, Calif.  
Fred C. Koch, Wichita, Kansas  
Alfred Kohlberg, New York City (Deceased)  
Dean Clarence Manion, South Bend, Indiana  
Frank E. Masland, Jr., Carlisle, Pa.  
N. Floyd McGowin, Chapman, Ala.  
W. B. McMillan, St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Revilo P. Oliver, Urbana, Illinois  
Cola G. Parker, Menasha, Wisc.  
Hon. M. T. Phelps, Phoenix, Arizona  
Louis Ruthenberg, Evansville, Ind.  
J. Nelson Shepherd, Sioux Falls, S. D.  
James Simpson, Jr., Illinois (Deceased)  
Robert W. Stoddard, Worcester, Mass.  
Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone, III  
(U.S.A.F. Ret.), Calif.  
Paul H. Talbert, Beverly Hills, Calif.

#### Former Members

John T. Beatty, Chicago, Ill.  
E. P. Hamilton, Two Rivers, Wisc.  
Adolphe Menjou, Calif.  
Ernest Swigert, Portland, Oregon

### *III. Committee of Endorsers*

*Alabama*

Lt. Gen. Edward M. Almond

*Arizona*

Frank Cullen Brophy

Clarence J. Duncan

Mrs. V. M. Haldiman

Edwin McDowell

*Arkansas*

O. D. Hadfield, Jr.

Mrs. Alfred Lippman, Jr.

*California*

F. P. Adams

L. A. Alesen, M.D.

Mrs. Gertrude Derby Bale

Major Gen. Robert Blake

Andrew Brown

Hon. Kit Clardy (Deceased)

William B. Coberly, Jr.

William W. Cone

C. M. Crawford

Richard H. Creel, M.D.

Matt Cvetic

W. R. Fawcett

Mrs. Helen H. Garretson

Francis P. Graves

D. Hanson Grubb

J. H. Harris

Hon. Edgar W. Hiestand

Rev. Francis Keas

Max A. Koffman

D. B. Lewis

Doane M. Lowery

Mrs. Doris A. Parks

Sister M. Margaret Patricia, Ph.D.

Ray M. Spalding

*Connecticut*

Philip N. Dumbrille

Franklin Farrel, Jr.

Rev. Francis E. Fenton

A. Brooks Harlow

E. Merritt Root

E. L. Wiegand

*District of Columbia*

Brig. Gen. Bonner Fellers

Mrs. John F. Gibson, Jr.

Rear Adm. Paulus P. Powell

Melchior F. R. Savarese, M.D.

Vice Adm. T. G. Settle

*Florida*

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick S. Ballweg

Mrs. A. Gray Boylston

Thomas Gaskins

Sidney Houston

Lt. Gen. Sumter L. Lowry

Mrs. Florence Post

*Georgia*

Hugh H. Armstrong

Paul K. McHenry, Jr.

R. Carter Pittman

*Hawaii*

Mrs. George P. Cooks

*Idaho*

J. H. Gipson, Sr.

*Illinois*

George J. Hess, M.D.

W. A. Kates

Theodore W. Miller

Max Pray

W. B. Taylor, Jr.

George H. Williamson

*Indiana*

James L. Doenges, M.D.

Hugh S. Ramsey, M.D.

*Iowa*

J. S. Kimmel, Sr.

*Kansas*

Robert D. Love

Hon. Wint Smith

*Kentucky*

R. S. Logan

### *Louisiana*

John U. Barr (Deceased)

Dr. Melford Evans

### *Maryland*

George O. Blome

Halsey McGovern

### *Massachusetts*

Eugene H. Clapp

Miss Hope Gray

Hubert W. Kregeloh

Charles J. Lewin

Robert H. Montgomery

Col. W. Bruce Pirnie

Burton A. Prince

Miss Olive Simes

Joseph Sullivan

Rodney Washburn

### *Michigan*

Mrs. Harmon L. Brown

Richard Durant

Irving E. Ingraham

Vernon P. Johnson, M.D.

### *Mississippi*

Tullius Brady

### *Missouri*

William R. Schneider

### *New Jersey*

Mrs. Frederick Griswold, Jr.

Mark M. Jones

Ross Nichols

Louis S. Wegryn, M.D.

### *New Hampshire*

C. B. Robinson

### *New Mexico*

George S. Richardson, M.D.

Lt. Gen. James P. Risley

### *New York*

Mrs. Kenneth C. Crain

Frank de Ganahl

E. Ainsworth Eyre

Vice Adm. C. S. Freeman

Norman J. Gould

Earl Harding

Merwin K. Hart

Mrs. Seth Milliken

T. I. Parkinson, Jr.

Commodore Frederick G. Reinicke

Archibald E. Roosevelt

George M. Tisdale

Jesse C. Williams

### *North Carolina*

Melick W. Blades

J. C. Peele, M.D.

### *Ohio*

Harold Blacker

Charles W. Pavey, M.D.

Hon. Gordon H. Scherer

### *Oklahoma*

Glen O. Young

### *Pennsylvania*

Frank W. Gaydosh

Mrs. T. E. Payne

### *Rhode Island*

Robert B. Dresser

Norman D. MacLeod

### *South Carolina*

Roger Milliken

Thomas Parker, M.D.

### *Tennessee*

J. P. McCallie

T. Walker Lewis

### *Texas*

John R. Anderson

Akard Beall

Mrs. W. L. Goldston (resigned)

W. H. Kellogg

Brig. Gen. W. L. Lee

Col. L. E. Limbert

Edward D. McKay, M.D.

J. Nye Ryman

Major Gen. W. G. Weaver

### *J. O. Webb*

Brig. Gen. T. F. Wessels

### *Utah*

Capt. and Mrs. Stephen Abbot

Hon. J. Bracken Lee

### *Vermont*

William S. Schlamm

### *Virginia*

E. S. Dillard

James G. Martin, IV

Matt McKeon

Capt. R. W. Orrell

### *Washington*

P. C. Beezley

Fred M. Harris

Col. Tom R. Hutton

Harry M. Robbins

### *West Virginia*

Luther O. Griffith

### *Wisconsin*

Mrs. Walter K. Graham

Mrs. Robert A. Murray

Mrs. Norman Skogstad

### *Wyoming*

Dan Hanson

A. E. Larson

### *IV. Headquarters Staff, Belmont, Mass.*

Dr. Francis X. Gannon

—Head of Research Dept.

Miss Estelle Hotin

Secretary to head of Research Dept.

James J. Drummer—Research Dept.

Thomas N. Hill—Identified as full-time

"correspondence" coordinator.

William Haviland—a coordinator.

Bernard Haffney—a coordinator.

David Breen—a coordinator.

Harold McKinney—Executive assistant to

Welch (deals with state coordinators).

### *V. Field Coordinators*

Hugh H. Armstrong, Savannah, Ga.

Leonard Banowitz, Wichita, Kansas

Akard S. Beall, Houston, Texas

P. C. Beezley, Seattle, Wash.

Claude Boring, Florida

Jack Brogdon, Houston, Texas

Harry Browne, Los Angeles, Calif.

Lyle Cashion (Cashin), Houston, Texas

Mrs. Joseph Crosby, South Pasadena, Calif.

Matt Dasinger, Montana

Thomas J. Davis, Stamford, Conn.

Leslie Fleming, Portland, Oregon

Glen Green, New York City

Joseph Grinnan, Dallas, Texas

David Harmon, Milwaukee, Wis.

Richard Johnson, Green Bay, Wis.

Edward Kelley, Michigan

Bob Koens, Chicago, Ill.

Sanford P. Knapp, Long-Island, N. Y.

Brig. Gen. William L. (Jerry) Lee

(U.S.A.F.Ret.), Amarillo, Texas

C. O. Mann (Buck McMann), Odessa, Tex.

Chet Merriam, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Kenneth L. Meyers, Wichita, Kansas

Dr. Charles W. Pavey, Columbus, Ohio

H. J. Pierson, Indianapolis, Ind.

Wayd Poag, Memphis, Tenn.

James H. Pound, Tallahassee, Fla.

Don Rueber, Milwaukee, Wis.

Mrs. Don (Joan) Rueber, Milwaukee, Wis.

Edmond F. Shoheen, Compton, Calif.

Donald W. Smith, Dallas, Texas

Kent Steffgen, St. Louis, Mo.

Stuart Swenson, Dallas, Texas

Dallas Wales, Shreveport, La.

Tom Wunderlich, Dallas, Texas

Dr. Rob Yeagran, Birmingham, Alabama

### *Former Field Coordinators*

Bryton Barton, Washington, D. C.

Orville Sherwood, Detroit, Mich.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-32899)

DATE: 1-31-62

FROM : ASAC JOSEPH D. PURVIS

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Inspector [redacted] telephoned from the Bureau at 8:55 AM, 1-31-62. He advised there was an item in the morning papers in Washington that Assistant Attorney General J. WALTER YEAGLEY had written ROBERT H. WELCH, Head of the John Birch Society, concerning an allegation reportedly made by WELCH in an address in Austin, Texas 11-20-61, that there were Communists in the Government. YEAGLEY told WELCH that if he had knowledge of any Communists in the Government, he should furnish his information to YEAGLEY or to the FBI. Inspector [redacted] question was whether we had received any such information from Mr. WELCH.

b6  
b7c

After talking to Supervisor [redacted] who, in turn, checked with his Relief Supervisor SA [redacted] I advised Inspector [redacted] we had not heard from Mr. WELCH.

JDP:MCG  
(1)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

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## U.S. Asks Robert Welch For Red Data; He's Silent

Robert H. W. Welch, founder of the controversial, right-wing John Birch Society, yesterday refused to make "any comment whatsoever" on the Justice Department's request that he produce any evidence he may have of Communists in government.

His Belmont office, where the magazine "American Opinion" and other publications are issued, said it had been flooded with telephone calls on the subject and that Welch would answer none of them.

### REQUEST DEC. 8

In Washington yesterday a Justice Department spokesman said Welch had not replied to a request made Dec. 8 for concrete information. The request was made by Asst. Atty.-Gen. J. Walker Yeagley, chief of the department's internal security section.

Welch allegedly charged in an Austin, Tex., speech on Nov. 20 that "a comparatively few thousand Communists (were) concentrated in key departments." Yeagley revealed that he wrote Welch:

"The charges you make are not to my knowledge supported by the material in the investigative files of government employees."

### PROBE UNDER WAY

"It would be my suggestion that you turn over to the FBI at once such facts as may be in your possession and the sources thereof which you believe establish that certain government employees are members of the Communist Party."

A federal grand jury probe of

Red officers and members has been under way in Washington two weeks. It seeks information about the failure of U.S. Communists to register under the provisions of the Internal Security Act.

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BOSTON GLOBE, Boston, Mass.  
 BOSTON HERALD, Boston, Mass.  
 BOSTON TRAVELER, Boston, Mass.  


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 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, Boston, Mass.  


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 RECORD-AMERICAN, Boston, Mass.

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America's Far Right — #1

## They See Monstrous Red Plot

By RELMAN MORIN  
Associated Press Special Correspondent

He sees a monstrous conspiracy at work in every cranny of the United States.

Its purpose, he says, is to deliver the American people into the hands of the Communists and he warns, "it is later than you think."

He accuses eminent Americans, including two former Presidents and Chief Justice Earl Warren, of degrees of complicity. And the Kennedy administration, as well, is "very weak and soft in dealing with the Communist threat," he says.

To him, this plot is the touchstone that de-complicates the complicated. It gives him one simple, easily-grasped explanation for all the intricate problems of today and the immediate past — Berlin, Cuba, Laos, Korea, Viet Nam, the eye — have deliberately

China, and even the events that led to Pearl Harbor.

"The real government of our country," he says, is the council on foreign relations and he calls it "the invisible government."

The suspension of nuclear weapons testing, he writes, was done "for only one conceivable purpose — to give the Soviet time to attain, or at least claim, superiority in weapons of which propaganda has engendered in us an hysterical fear."

Most Americans are unaware of the situation, he says, having been blinded by Communist infiltration of the federal government, the churches, schools, and armed forces. Press, radio and television — he says this looking a reported straight in the eye — have deliberately

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Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

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'misinformed the people or failed to print "the facts."

As immediate corrective measures, he calls for withdrawal from the United Nations, an end to foreign aid, a sharp break with the Soviet Union, the impeachment of Earl Warren, and deep surgery in the State Department and other branches of the federal government.

In some regions and in varying degrees, he also sees danger to the nation from desegregation, labor unions, the income tax, welfare programs, foreign alliances and water fluoridation.

Who is this man?

The above points form a composite profile of the ultra-conservative

**Continued on Page 11, Col. 1**

**Far Right**



—Associated Press Wirephoto

**John Birch Society founder**

**Robert Welch.**

## Far Right

Continued from Page One  
servative, the member of the Hard Right, the "Double Patriot."

The profile does not apply, in all respects, to every Rightist. There are many groups and many different shades of opinion among them. They don't all call for the same things. Even within a given organization, the John Birch Society, for example, there are Birchers who do not endorse everything propounded by the Society's founder, Robert Welch of Massachusetts.

But it does point the general direction of what appears to be a rising river of opinion in the United States today.

How big is the movement? Nobody can say precisely. One survey indicates that as many as 2,000 organizations may be functioning. Their total membership, however, is impossible to calculate accurately. The John Birch Society and the Minutemen do not disclose their enrollment. Some individuals belong to more than one group, overlapping. Some drop out shortly after joining. Some join but are inactive members.

The total could be millions, or only some hundreds of thousands.

Some groups that have attracted the greatest attention are the Birchers, the Christian anti-Communist Crusade, the National Indignation Council, the Christian Council, and The Minutemen (or Minute Men as some groups delineate it), a loosely-knit collection of bands who maneuver in the field with actual firearms and presumably are training for guerrilla warfare in case of invasion, or in case American Communists take over the country.

Such names as Freedom Center, Freedom Fighters, Christian Resistance, Project Alert, the Committee Against Nihilism, the National Anti-Communist League, American Security Council, and hundreds of others suggest the general area of the philosophy.

What type of person joins them?

The attorney-general of California, Stanley Mosk, wrote in a report on the John Birch Society:

"The cadre . . . seems to be formed primarily of wealthy businessmen, retired military officers, and little old ladies in tennis shoes."

If this is accurate for that group in that state, it hardly describes the rightist movement as a whole.

Rightist thinking has permeated many segments of American society. This reporter discussed the doctrines with housewives and corporation executives, college presidents and college students, professional men and factory workers, persons of widely varying educational and social backgrounds. In a modest home in a suburb of Los Angeles, a housewife said, "I just love my country."

*That's why I joined in order to be able to do something. Is there anything wrong with that?*

In Dallas, a 24-year-old businessman said, earnestly, "I have studied communism. I see it as the struggle between Christ and anti-Christ. I see the problem as my obligation to inform others. That is my duty to God, country, family and friends."

In Louisville, Ky., a businessman said, "I feel that people needed to be better informed. Since there was no other measure to let them know about many of the areas where the international Communist conspiracy is working, I found the John Birch Society the best means of getting that information to them and also to stimulate their thinking."

In New York City, an executive's wife said she had signed a petition to impeach Mr. Warren. "A friend showed me the record of the Supreme Court decisions affecting the Communists," she said. "I hadn't known about them."

Yes, she said, she holds Mr. Warren personally responsible. Is there a possibility that the many groups may unite under one dominant personality?

So far, the personality hasn't appeared. Besides, as H. L. Hunt, wealthy Texas oil man, put it, "they are competitive in spirit. Each would rather go along on his own."

Severe criticism has been leveled at the Rightists by President Kennedy, former Presidents Eisenhower and Truman, and many newspapers and magazines. The groups fire back in publications of their own. And the Oneonta, N.Y., Star probably spoke for the great majority of Americans when it said:

"There is question in many open minds today whether the greatest danger to our United States is from the Reds of communism or from the blues on the right . . . each seems to believe it is right and it is the rest of us who are crazy."

*Continued tomorrow  
in The Evening Bulletin*

# Why All the Delayed Apprehension?

By REILMAN MORIN  
Associated Press Special Correspondent

A large number of Far Rightist groups, loudly campaigning against communism today, were organized only a few years ago.

Yet, the dangerous duel between West and East exploded into the open nearly 17 years ago.

Since then, the Communists have enslaved millions, blockaded Berlin, launched a war in Korea, drowned the Hungarian rebellion in blood, announced that "we will bury you," and given many other evidences of a deadly intent.

So today, in effect, you ask a person who recently joined a Rightist group, "How is it that, in all these years, you have only just become alarmed about the Communists?"

A woman in Los Angeles, working on an operation called Project Alert, hesitated and then answered:

"Well, I was busy raising my children and enjoying my home and family. I guess I just never really thought about it."

A young Texas businessman said he began to be concerned shortly before the birth of his first child. "I got to wondering about his future in the kind of world we live in," he said.

These answers are fairly typical.

Many newly-recruited Rightists are between the ages of 20 and 35. Until recently, they were able to sweep the facts of the cold war under the rug. Now they have homes and small children. They worry about the future.

A picture of the Far Rightist begins to form.

He is frequently a person who became frightened by developments abroad and at home, and frustrated because, as a plain citizen, he felt powerless to do anything about them.

You probe a little. What were these events?

Again and again, usually in this order of importance, you get the same three answers:

1. Cuba — The nearest Communist country used to be on the other side of the Atlantic. Now there is a Red regime within 100 miles of American territory. This has come as a teeth-rattling shock.

2. Security — The sudden awareness that today, for the first time in history, the United States is vulnerable to large-scale physical attacks which could assume a hideous dimension. In 1960, he heard the arguments over a "missile gap" and whether the United States was second best in armaments and defense.

3. Impatience — "Are we going to have to live in fear and uncertainty all our lives?" a 23-year-old New Yorker asked.

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Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
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wonder asked, "Why can't our leaders do something? Why doesn't the United Nations ever settle anything?"

So he joins a Rightist group. The motivation, apart from anxiety, may also be a desire to "be doing something" and the need for companionship.

He goes to rallies, hears anti-Communist speakers, is advised by the John Birch Society Blue Book to "form fronts," mans a picket line, occasionally creates disturbances, studies Communist tactics in a discussion group at his neighbor's home.

Now he learns something startling.

He is told that the principal Communist threat to the U.S. comes from within the nation, not from abroad.

He is told that there are Communists, or sympathizers, in the federal government. He reads a pamphlet which says:

"No one dares to say that ALL available evidence indicates that the pilot of our famous U-2 must have purposely landed his plane in Russia; and that the objectives of those who planned the incident must have been (1) to give the Soviet model to duplicate; (2) to provide American Communists with an excuse for getting recognition over Russia suspended, and (3) to postpone the 'summit conference with a maximum of public disgrace to the U.S."

Another pamphlet is entitled, "The slanted, slippery, silent 'press.'" It says:

"The Communist infiltration of the 'press' (and 'press' is used here here . . . to include not only newspapers, but books and periodicals of all kinds, radio, television and motion pictures) goes back at least as far as Marxism itself."

The pamphlet lays down a formula that allegedly will help the reader to spot Red propaganda in periodicals. It quotes what appear to be specific examples — but doesn't state in what newspaper or publication they appeared.

Nor are the churches, schools and Supreme Court free of Red infiltration, the extremist asserts.

The words "treason" and "espionage" and innuendoes pointing to the "literature of the Right" are

Now, for the rookie in the movement, many things fall into place — unless, of course, he happens to know some contemporary history.

Otherwise, it becomes "clear" why China was "lost" and Berlin encircled in East German territory, why the Korean War was a stalemate, why Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker were relieved of their commands, why

the Cuban invasion aborted, and Reds in high places in America. Actually, these are all products, and in some instances extremely complicated products, with many factors involved, of nearly 17 years of the cold war.

They occasioned the "Great Debate" in 1951 when American and other forces were falling back in Korea.

The late Sen. Joseph McCarthy highlighted them again with

his charges of card-carrying Communists in the State Department and his accusations against the late Gen. George C. Marshall.

Today, the Rightist movement represents another great national convulsion, brought about by the complexities of the struggle with the Communists and the fears and frustrations it creates.

*Continued Tomorrow  
In The Evening Bulletin*

# THE FAR RIGHT -- NO. 4

## Making Red Seem White Can Work in Reverse

By RELMAN MORIN  
Associated Press Special Correspondent

One eerie, reverse-English aspect of the climate created in the United States by the rise of the rightist movement haunts many Americans today.

They fear that the super-patriot, far from hurting the Communists, may in fact, be helping them by his tactics.

Writing of the John Birch Society, Thomas M. Storke, publisher of the Santa Barbara, Calif., News-Press, noted:

"It is worth pondering the possibility that the organization, unwittingly, is following a Communist-inspired line to destroy Americans' faith in their

Among the theories of Birch Society founder Joseph Welch is the "principle of inversion." It holds that Communists might operate directly contrary to their apparent interests just to confuse people. Some intriguing applications are discussed in this fourth of six articles on the far right.

most respected leaders and institutions."

The Daily Palo Alto (Calif.) Times said in an editorial:

"The extremists . . . in their fear of communism or their zeal to counter it are flailing about and damaging the very institutions they claim they are trying to preserve. Their irresponsible attacks . . . tend to create the kind of atmosphere that delights Moscow's professional agitators."

### Lenin Prediction

The Seattle Times said "the danger lies in the potential ability of an extremist group to divide and confuse the American public merely by mounting a horse labelled 'anti-communism' and riding it off in all directions."

California Atty. Gen. Stanley Mosk says the Russians already have claimed Robert Welch, founder of the Birchers, as a "new supporter." Mosk's report on the society quotes an article in the Literary Gazette of Moscow, dated April 14, 1961, as saying:

"Lenin said that the most ardent foes of communism will eventually become frightened and suspicious of everybody who does not agree with them."

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ment has gained unexpectedly a new supporter. His name is Robert Welch."

The article, as quoted by Misk, then cites some of Welch's charges against highly-placed Americans and says:

"This is the teaching of Robert Welch and his John Birch Society. Here is more proof that Lenin's teachings and predictions were correct."

## UN 'Coverup'

By Robert A. Graham, S.J.

wrote in the Catholic magazine America:

"Applying Welch's own principle of inversion, a perfect case can be made out for the thesis that Welch himself is a Communist, so much has he helped the Red cause in the United States."

The principle referred to is Welch's contention that the Russians try to make Americans believe black is white, and vice versa. For example, the rightist—and not only the Birchers—asserts:

That Soviet Premier Khrushchev's violent attacks on the late Dag Hammarskjold, secretary-general of the United Nations, were designed to conceal the fact that Hammarskjold actually was "a Red."

That Khrushchev in fact controls the U.N., but demanded sweeping changes in it, structurally, to cover up the fact that he is its master.

## Little Confusing

A typical example appeared in Welch's version of what presumably happened in the abortive invasion of Cuba last April.

The Boston Herald quoted Welch as saying:



ROBERT WELCH

planned by Castro and his friends in our government to make Cuba stronger throughout Latin America, to reduce U.S. prestige, and . . . for the purpose of killing off future resistance."

This is the "principle of inversion."

It becomes a little confusing, however, when you find Welch saying on a television program:

"And you saw the Supreme Court of the U.S. making decisions which the Communists

themselves praised and glorified . . . and which the Communists announced as the greatest victories ever won by the Communist party."

So, in "glorifying" these "victories," does it mean that the Communists actually considered them shattering defeats?

## ADA Is Cited

These are some of the charges against the Rightists.

They often reply, "If we are extremists, what is the A.D.A.? Why aren't they attacked?" (The Americans for Democratic Action was founded in 1948 to promote liberal causes and candidates. Many conservatives consider it ultra-liberal, on the extreme left wing.)

A Long Beach, Calif., woman participating in the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade, said "Surely it is a good thing if more people know more about communism. You don't have to believe everything said by some of the speakers . . ."

Another rightist assertion is that "Moscow has sent out the word to push as hard as possible an anti-anti-Communist movement in the U. S. That's one reason why people criticize us."

Rep. John Rousselot, R-Calif., one of the state's two congressmen who say they are members of the Birch Society, described it as "basically a home study group—a living room study sort of thing."

The Los Angeles Evening Herald-Express said in an editorial that Americans should beware of "extremists" on either wing. It added, "But is it not better to be alert and aware, when there is cause for alertness, than to fall asleep and allow ourselves to become lost beyond recall? We have gone to sleep, unfortunately, too often."

TODAY: Sen. Strom

## Organization Meeting Held

# *Birch Society Active*

By PAUL F. HOYE

The John Birch Society has come to Rhode Island.

A meeting to organize a Providence chapter of the controversial, ultra-conservative anti-Communist organization was held one week ago in a Providence home.

About 25 persons were invited to attend to hear a full-time Birch coordinator outline the goals and methods of the society and to hear a filmed two-hour talk by the group's founder, Robert Welch.

It could not be determined if those present agreed to establish a chapter, nor, in the event they did, who the leader of the chapter would be.

Philip K. Langan, the coordinator, declined to release that information. "I prefer not to make the names public," he said.

Mr. Langan said, however, that if the members wish to identify themselves, there is no objection. He said also that it would be up to the members to make any formal announcement to the press if they desire.

The policy of Birch chapters is to exclude the press from meetings, he said.

Friday's meeting followed two or three months of work by Mr. Langan, assisted to some degree by Norman D. MacLeod, one of Rhode Island's most vocal spokesmen for the conservative point of view and one of two Rhode Islanders who have backed ~~recently~~ the John

Birch society since it was formed.

The other is Robert B. Dresser, a Providence attorney, who has voiced his conservative views in a series of paid advertisements in the Journal-Bulletin.

Mr. MacLeod assisted Mr. Langan by providing him with the names of Rhode Island individuals who he believed would be interested in the Birch movement. Others invited to the meeting had shown their interest by writing to the society headquarters for information.

In an interview last week

*in R.I.*

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Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor,  
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Mr. MacLeod said that he would not be an active member of the Providence chapter because it is too far from his home in Charlestown.

He added, however, that a South County chapter of the society might be formed in the future and that he would be active then.

Mr. MacLeod also declined to disclose the names of those whom he had recommended as possible members.

"Not because there is anything to conceal," he said, "but the Birch Society does not seek publicity."

Mr. Langan, a paid worker for the group, works out of Belmont, Mass., the site of the society's national headquarters and the home of Mr. Welch.

According to Mr. MacLeod, the Providence chapter, if supporters have agreed to form one, probably will consist of about 15 members in keeping with the society's policy of preventing units from becoming unwieldy in size.

Should the membership reach a much larger figure than that, a second chapter would be formed, he said.

'No Trouble at All'

## Reporter 'Joins' Birchers

The feelings and philosophy of Norman D. MacLeod were not unfamiliar to the Journal-Bulletin reporter who interviewed him.

They were, in fact, quite similar to those expressed by members of the New Bedford chapter of the John Birch Society which the reporter "joined" last summer, and by the coordinator at the national headquarters of the society in Belmont, Mass.

The reporter joined the society to determine the nature of a group which, at that time was coming into national prominence as a "semi-secret and Communist organiza-

tion whose members were being accused of employing questionable tactics in their opposition to communism.

Joining the society was no trouble at all. Despite its frequently expressed concern that "Leftists" would "infiltrate" the society, none of the coordinators, nor members ever once inquired into the reporter's background.

He joined by writing to the society's headquarters in Belmont and accepting an invitation to come up and talk to a coordinator. After that talk, he was referred to the leader of the New Bedford chapter.

He attended two meetings, requested acceptance as a member and was almost immediately accepted.

He attended two more meetings as a full fledged member and continued to receive the society's literature for several months afterwards. These are his impressions.

The John Birch Society chapter in New Bedford doesn't quite live up to its billing.

It's neither secret nor sinister. Its members are not fanatical. It's just a bunch of people who are interested in politics and want to keep America free.

Continued on Page 10, Col. 1

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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# Memorandum

TO : SAC, Boston (100-32899)

FROM : Director, FBI (62-104401)

SUBJECT: ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

DATE: January 31, 1962

Assistant Attorney General J. Walter Yeagley has advised that the Department recently sent a letter to Welch referring to a statement attributed to him at a rally in Austin, Texas, on 11/20/61 to the effect that a comparatively few thousand communists concentrated in key departments of the Government have taken the United States steadily down the road to communism. Yeagley advised Welch that the charges made by Welch are not to Yeagley's knowledge supported by material in the investigative files of Government employees. Yeagley requested Welch to turn over to the FBI at once the facts in his possession and the sources thereof which may establish that certain Government employees are members of the Communist Party.

You are instructed that in the event Welch contacts your office as a result of Yeagley's letter to furnish such information, the information should be received in the same manner as from any other private citizen who would appear at your office to furnish information. Welch should be pressed to furnish specifics and not generalities and should be requested to furnish the sources of his information in order that any matters he reports can be followed through to a logical conclusion.

The Agents who might interview Welch should be instructed not to become involved in any discussions with him other than those discussions necessary in connection with the subject matters on which he is reporting. The interview with Welch should be handled in such a manner so that he will not gain the impression that the Bureau is condemning or approving his activities or the activities of the John Birch Society.

The results of the interview should be promptly furnished the Bureau under the specific case caption, or captions, of the subject matter, or matters, involved. *100-32899-305*

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## Birchers See Nation Swarming With Reds

After four meetings it became clear that to members of this Birch Society chapter, Communism is almost an obsession.

They firmly believe, for instance, that the city of New Bedford is a center for Communist activity.

They firmly believe that the United States is literally swarming with Communists.

They firmly believe that the government, the press, the churches, the armed forces, the schools and colleges, the Democratic party, and, to a lesser extent, the Republican party, labor unions and hundreds of other organizations are infiltrated and controlled by Communists or Communist sympathizers and puppets.

At one meeting, for example, it was suggested that the Birch chapter sponsor a large public showing of the Birch Society's chief anti-Communist

weapon, "Operation Abolition."

When some members suggested that it be shown at a large theater and be widely advertised the alarm was suddenly sounded.

One man immediately warned that if the film were to be shown that publicly, the Communists would immediately start trouble.

Another agreed that it would invite trouble, but thought that trouble would be a good idea because it would focus public attention on the film and result in more showings.

It was decided that the film should be shown in the Dartmouth Town Hall and the radio newsman said he would give the showing as much publicity as possible.

But again the alarm was sounded.

If it gets advance publicity, "the Reds" will have time to organize trouble, members warned. That made sense, members agreed, and the final decision was to show the film at the town hall, but to withhold public mention of it until just two or three days before the showing.

And as a final precaution it was decided that only written questions rather than oral questions would be permitted, "to prevent trouble."

Another example of the chapter's conviction that the Communist Party is keeping a close eye on New Bedford is seen in "the Mattapoisett incident."

That incident was mentioned at all four of the meetings I attended. From the references to it, this is apparently what happened:

During a showing of "Operation Abolition" at a Catholic church hall in nearby Mattapoisett, two young men who attended the showing, in the discussion period after, challenged the truth of the film, saying scenes had been spliced into the film out of context. Their challenge apparently caused a stir.

No one knew the two young

men, nor anything about them, but chapter members insist that they were Communist agents sent by the Communist Party from a mid-western college for the sole purpose of breaking up that showing of the film in the small town of Mattapoisett.

The obsession was reflected too in their coordinator who told the group one night that the national headquarters in Belmont was swamped with work but that it was difficult to get clerical help.

"We can't advertise," he said, "we'd be infiltrated overnight; the leftists would swarm in."

To the New Bedford chapter, Communism is everywhere. Much of their conversation is sprinkled with "we" and "they" meaning the Birchers and the Communists. Books, newspapers, magazines, television shows are carefully scrutinized for evidence of Communist domination—and usually provide it, according to members:

Considering the makeup of the John Birch chapter, it is difficult to understand this.

Generally the members are representative of what would usually be called "the better classes"—businessmen, teachers, doctors, manufacturers.

On the whole they seem to have better than average educations. They talk well and seem to be well informed.

But they are certain that every welfare program, every strike, every new tax, every boost in foreign aid is Communist-inspired. They believe that every change in public opinion toward such developments as socialized medicine, urban redevelopment, civil rights, welfare and aid to education is Communist-inspired.

One man, for example, who identified himself as a vice president of an industrial survey company, was explaining why he had joined the John Birch Society.

He said that his firm had

made a survey of the thinking of high school students in New Jersey and found that 61 per cent of the students didn't think there was any need for profits in business, and that 62 per cent thought it was the government that had the responsibility to provide jobs.

"When I saw this I decided something should be done, in a small way I want to help and I will," he said.

The members of the New Bedford Chapter of the John Birch Society are definitely not fanatics.

They conduct themselves and their meetings with reason and restraint. They abhor the pressures that Birchists are accused of exerting in other parts of the country, such as telephone campaigns to frighten their opponents.

They also avoid repeating Mr. Welch's accusation that President Eisenhower is a Communist.

But they are seriously convinced that there is a Communist conspiracy at work everywhere in American society and that at any moment, the country will fall.

And they're ready to give their all to prevent it.

REINFORCEMENT CONTINUED

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# Must Impeach Earl Warren

At the next meeting of the New Bedford chapter, Ken Dennison, the coordinator, laid it on the line.

"If you're interested in just studying and learning about Communism, this isn't the group for you. The John Birch Society is an action group."

John Birch members, he said, should not waste time trying to convert Liberals. Spend your time with people whose sympathies are open to persuasion and "who have a spark of patriotism," he said.

Mr. Dennison also issued a call to action. The John Birch Society, he said, has to concentrate on the campaign to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren.

"It's hard work, but it's the first real project we've had," he said and quoted Mr. Welch as saying, "If we can't impeach Warren, we can't defeat Communism."

The members of the New Bedford chapter agreed that it was hard work. One member, a teacher, said that people had "a nameless fear" of retaliation and smears and of losing jobs if they sign a petition.

It was suggested then that the New Bedford group borrow an idea from Robert Dresser and Norman D. MacLeod, two outspoken Rhode Island conservatives, and run newspaper advertisements explaining why the petition is being circulated and giving Justice Warren's "Communist voting record."

That touched off a brief discussion about what the members said was a John Birch victory, a recent vote by the Supreme Court which went, members said, "5-4 against the Communists."

That same meeting brought to the fore a young man who was attending for the first

time, but who won immediate favor by giving personal testimony that there was indeed a "conspiracy" to discredit the John Birch Society.

The young man was named "Phillips," and told the group that he was a radio reporter.

"The press is conditioned to an anti-Birch feeling," he said. "There's much more anti-Birch copy than there is anti-Communist copy."

But "Phillips" had a remedy.

One thing the society could do, he said, would be to form a public relations bureau to feed information to the wire services about John Birch activities and about Communist activities.

"Phillips" also reassured the group that he was protecting his listeners against Communist propaganda. "I see to it that slanted news doesn't get on the air," he said.

Mr. Dennison expressed his

approval of that move and said that New Bedford was very fortunate in the protection it received against the Communist conspiracy.

He said there were only two newspapers in New England which were doing a good job—the New Bedford Standard Times and the Manchester, N.H., Union-Leader.

Both papers are recognized as ultra-conservative in their editorial policies.

That second meeting also produced one awkward moment.

A man arose during the meeting and said: "I'm a Jew and I want to know if the John Birch Society is anti-Semitic."

Mr. Dennison was momentarily embarrassed by the question, but hastened to assure the man that it was not anti-Semitic, and that "Mr. Welch prefers that members have religious convictions."

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# *His Is a Personal Crusade*

In the seclusion of his handsome Kenyon farmhouse last week, one of Rhode Island's two outspoken advocates of the extreme conservative cause shed some light on his position and on the John Birch Society.

Mr. MacLeod, is an industrialist, a farmer, a prolific letter writer and—in World War I—a hero who won France's Croix de Guerre and America's Distinguished Service Cross.

"I am a conservative," Mr. MacLeod said. "And I expect I always will be. And I can't go along with many of the things which have been done in this country in the past 20 to 30 years."

"And generally I agree with the aims, goals and methods of the John Birch Society. There are exceptions. . . ."

Mr. MacLeod then proceeded to explain his position at length, first on conservatism and then on the John Birch Society. He also wove in bits and pieces of personal experience in the past 60-some years to flesh out the profile of a successful, well-to-do manufacturer who is dividing his retirement between managing a farm and fighting a personal crusade against communism.

His basic position was simply stated: "As a result of the things that have happened in this country lately, the moral fiber of the people has been weakened; most people have become dependent on the central government in Washington."

"For example, it's hard to get anyone to work. Employment is high in Rhode Island but at 70 I have to do all the chores here myself." He gestured at the farm buildings beyond the house.

"People prefer to be on relief; they feel that they can get money from the state or the federal government, so why worry or work?"

Asked if it were possible that his wages were too low, Mr. MacLeod replied: "Well, compared to working in a factory, yes. But in addition to a cash wage I offer shelter, heat, light, food and laundry. The cash wage is all clear. But I can't get anyone."

From that starting point Mr. MacLeod went on to explain point by point his opposition to: social security, Liberals, world government, foreign aid, the United Nations, civil rights nationally imposed, and fair housing laws.

And having explained his views he summed them up by saying that he opposed the centralization of government and the concentration of power in a central government.

"They want to tell us," he said, "what we can have for breakfast."

Specifically this is what he said on those subjects:

~~social security~~: "I don't

~~condemn~~ it, but it should be carried out by private industry. The General Electric Co., for instance, had already started such a plan when the government started its program and they gave it up. The advantage of it is the lower costs. The government plan is terribly expensive. And in addition the funds going into a private ~~plan~~ would be available for industry's use—for developing more products and more jobs."

Liberals: "I fear Liberal attitudes and acts more than the Communist conspiracy. I feel they support world government and oppose nationalism and this helps the Communists put it over us. Many well known Liberals parrot statements put out by the Communist Party in the Daily Worker, such as the statement that the 'danger is from without and not from within.' In my book this is an absolute falsehood, and my authority for this is J. Edgar Hoover. Our greatest danger is from within."

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**World Government:** "I believe — and I have no evidence for it — that there is a group apart from the Communists which advocates world government and which will eventually fight Communists for it. I don't believe in world government. One of my major concerns is that it would mean a cut in the American standard of living and I see no reason to take such a cut. The other is that it would mean the end of the free enterprise system."

**Foreign aid:** "I'm not against the entire concept of foreign aid; if we can help in raising the standard of living, good. But in too many cases it's going into armaments and into the pockets of politicians. I say cut it off. Help, yes, but waste, no. Some two billions of dollars have gone to Tito but if there were a war he'd fight against us and use the weapons our money has purchased. The Marshall Plan was good at first, but after the need for it was over we continued to force it on them."

**United Nations:** "I can't see any use in it; all it has done is promote conflict. It has also led to our Supreme Court basing its decisions on the Charter of Human Rights rather than on the United States Constitution. Treaty Law, you know, takes precedence over the Constitution and being a member of the UN means we are ruled by Treaty Law rather than the Constitution. We should get out."

**Civil Rights:** "I'm opposed to the imposition of a Civil Rights code by the federal government. I'm sympathetic to the South; they were handling the Negro problem in the best way, through a natural evolution."

**Fair Housing:** "I'm opposed to the fair housing legisla-

~~tion~~, because it denies the right of a property owner to dispose of his property as he wishes."

With regard to the Birch Society — which in general opposes the same things— Mr. MacLeod expressed accord with most of its stands with two exceptions: the widely circulated accusation of the Birch Society's founder, Robert Welch, that former President Eisenhower was a Communist; and the Birch campaign to impeach Earl Warren, chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

On the accusation that President Eisenhower was a Communist, Mr. MacLeod said he didn't believe that Mr. Welch ever meant that Mr. Eisenhower belonged to the Communist Party, but "only that there was evidence pointing to it."

As to the campaign against Chief Justice Warren, Mr. MacLeod said "I don't agree with that campaign at all. I don't think it can be done, and I don't think that Bob Welch thinks it can be done. He wants to focus attention on the fact that we're ruled by Treaty Law rather than by the U.S. Constitution."

But otherwise Mr. MacLeod is willing to go along with the John Birch Society.

"I'm not one of the founders," he said, "but I joined in 1959 shortly after Bob Welch founded it. I'm not a member of the council nor of the executive committee. I am a member of the home chapter, which includes many John Birch members who have no local chapter."

Asked to comment on charges that the "rightist" groups were prone to take short-cuts that violate constitutional liberties and that they are frequently accused of having fascist tendencies, Mr. MacLeod said those charges are not true.

"The Birch Society is not taking any short cuts that I know of," he said.

"My idea of a 'rightist' is one who upholds the Constitution; if the extreme right were fascists I would not approve of them."

Mr. MacLeod ~~was~~ also asked his views of the late Senator McCarthy, a spokesman for the far right and a man whose anti-Communist tactics became a national issue and led the United States Senate to publicly censor him.

"I admit that he made statements he shouldn't have made," Mr. MacLeod said, "but I thank God for Senator McCarthy. I think he did a lot more good than harm. I don't condone the destruction of people's reputations, but you must remember that certain newspapers in New York state which fought him have since acknowledged that they were wrong and Senator Flanders who was chairman of the censoring committee has since told me that it was

one of the worst mistakes he made."

Mr. MacLeod also mentioned the "Minutemen," an organization centered in California whose members are preparing themselves to fight guerrilla warfare if the United States is ever conquered.

"That's going too far," Mr. MacLeod said.

As to Communism, which, according to the Birch Society, is the moving force behind the nation's welfare and Civil Rights legislation and its policies and activities abroad, Mr. MacLeod said that he has been fighting it since 1927.

At that time, he said, he was serving as Rhode Island chairman of National Defense Week and ran into trouble with a group called the "Committee Against Militarism." Mr. MacLeod suggested that this was a ~~Communist~~ inspired movement.

Since then he has been studying Communism and trying to work against it. "But it's frustrating. People begin to think you're a fanatic, that you're overdoing it."

~~With the exception of helping to organize the Providence Chapter of the John Birch Society by providing the names of possible members, Mr. MacLeod has not been active in the John Birch movement, and doesn't plan to because of the distance from Kenyon to Providence.~~

"But I probably would be if there were a chapter in South County. There is none now and nothing is being done to organize one, but there's good material for it down here."

Throughout the interview Mr. MacLeod punctuated his comments with references to his past, which to some degree explains the views he holds today.

"I always had to work hard," he said. "And it didn't hurt me at all."

"I had a degree from M.I.T. but I didn't think I had enough practical experience. So I went to work at Brown & Sharpe's at 18 cents an hour."

In 1916 he joined his father in what became the Abrasive Machine Tool Co. "We had to scratch to keep going, even doing automobile repairs at one point. But we survived."

He said that from the firm's founding to its liquidation two years ago, "There was never a walkout, a slow down or a strike."

"We treated our men fair and they treated us fair, and one of the proudest days I've known was when several workers told me after the company closed that the minute they ~~mentioned~~ Abrasive Machine Tool they ~~were able to get another job.~~"

**'But Can't Be Dismissed Lightly'**

# 'Birch Society Not Secret Nor Sinister'

Continued from Page One  
natics. Its chapter meetings are decidedly unsensational.

It cannot, however, be dismissed lightly. In its philosophy, its membership and its strong financial condition the John Birch society is a potentially powerful force that could have a definite impact on the American scene.

At first glance this wouldn't seem to be the case.

My first glance was obtained last May in Belmont, Mass., where I was invited into the bright, tastefully furnished headquarters which were, most appropriately, panelled in birch.

I had gone there at the invitation of Mary F. White, who signed herself as a personal assistant to Robert Welch, the wealthy candy manufacturer who has turned away from making candy and money to devote himself to fighting Communists and "Consymps." The John Birch word for those who appear—to the society—to be in league or in sympathy with Communists.

On hand to greet me was a Mr. McKinney, a soft spoken, serious young man, well dressed, articulate, and persuasive. Briefly, and with obvious conviction, he outlined the purposes of the society and suggested that I buy—for \$2—the "Blue Book," and then, if interested, call back.

Mr. McKinney said that the activity of the society included reading certain books, pamphlets, periodicals—copies of which he produced and offered to me at the going rates—and then spreading the information contained in them.

Asked what the qualifications were for joining the society, he said: "Just be interested."

My second glance came about two weeks later at the home of Dr. Robert Goodwin in South Dartmouth, just outside of New Bedford.

In the meantime, I had read "The Blue Book," a 174-page transcript of the two-day speech given by Mr. Welch in Indianapolis Dec. 9, 1958, when the society was founded.

I had also sampled from the John Birch reading list: "Nine Men Against America," a book tracing what the author says was the gradual capture by Communism of the U.S. Supreme Court and the court's subsequent betrayal of the country.

I read also such pamphlets as "I saw Poland Betrayed," "A Businessman Looks at Communism," "The Differences Between a Democracy And a Republic," and "An Open Letter to Sen. McCarthy's Child."

And finally I had called the Birch headquarters and said, yes, I was definitely interested in learning more about the society.

Dr. Goodwin's house is set on sloping, spacious grounds that run down to a bay. It's a large house with huge open beams, a great fireplace, bookshelves and a small table stacked with the bulletins, pamphlets and books either put out by or recommended by the Birch Society.

In that charming setting about 17 men and women murmured a silent prayer, acknowledged the introductions, signed a membership list, paid dues and sat down to fight communism.

The first step was to read the monthly bulletin put out by Robert Welch, a bulletin that begins with a quotation, carries comments from the founder, and then outlines the agenda for the month.

At that particular meeting the agenda—which is set by Mr. Welch and handed to members to carry out—stressed the need to show "Operation Abolition," a film on student riots at hearings conducted by the House un-American activities committee, and "Communism On The Map," a film strip on the spread of Communism throughout the world.

The agenda also suggested that letters of encouragement be sent to Gen. Edwin Walker who had just been ousted

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from his command in Germany for pushing far right views onto his troops.

And most important of all, it urged members to knuckle down and get signatures on a petition to oust Earl Warren, the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, who, the society alleges, has been largely responsible for court decisions in favor of Communism.

With the reading of the agenda, two coordinators from Belmont arrived, one a man named Tom Hill and the other a new coordinator named Ken Dennison who was to work with the New Bedford chapter.

Their arrival signaled the start of a discussion and question period.

One lady said that she understood that the President doesn't see all of his mail and so what good is it for members to write to him concerning issues. Mr. Hill said that it's the amount of the mail that counts, and that members should write anyway.

He emphasized that members should write individually, not as a member of the society.

Another lady asked if the society was going to oppose President Kennedy's meeting with Nikita Khrushchev. Mr. Hill said no position had been taken on that yet.

A man who identified himself as a teacher held up a book called "The Spirit of Democracy," apparently a school text. He said that in the book the word "democracy" was mentioned 30 or 40 times and the word "republic" was mentioned once.

The book, he said, should be "reviewed," in the light of



Norman D. MacLeod

the Birch Society's insistence that the United States is a republic not a democracy and that attempts to make it a democracy is part of the "conspiracy."

Another man told the members and the coordinators of "hostility" he had encountered during a showing of "Operation Abolition." He quoted someone who opposed the showing of the film as saying, "It's all right; we'll take over in 10 years anyway."

One member also told of his experiences in showing "Operation Abolition." He said that the New Bedford chapter after receiving one print of the film had shown it 49 times and that it was booked up solid.

Mr. Hill then took the floor to inform the group that the

wave of adverse publicity that had just swept across the country concerning the Birch Society had "boomeranged."

"We're getting 500 to 600 letters a day and we've mailed out nearly 2,000 copies of the Blue Book in the past two weeks."

Mr. Hill also recommended that members watch "Open End," a television program and "Meet the Press," on the following night, to see Mr. Welch's interviews.

He also had a warning for members: Watch out, he told them, for a bogus copy of "Operation Abolition," which was being circulated by the American Civil Liberties Union, a group which the Birchers consider to be Communists-run.

The last item on the program was a 45-minute taped speech made by Prof. Revilo P. Oliver of the University of Illinois. The speech by Professor Oliver was an impassioned outline of how the Communist underground had received orders to discredit the John Birch Society and had, through its domination of the press, set that campaign into motion.

Professor Oliver particularly mentioned a national news magazine which he christened "Slime Magazine," as being in on the plot to destroy the John Birch movement.

The speech ended with a dramatic warning that in Communist files "every member of the John Birch Society is marked for a horrible death."

Then came coffee and the meeting was over.

Mass. JAN 25 1962

THE WINCHESTER STAR, THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

## Defense Of Birch Society

Editor of the Star:

It seems to be the fashion these days to criticize right-wing groups, and the recent articles on the editorial page of the Star follow such a long series of writings in the national press that the main elements of the message should by this time be familiar to every serious reader. What may be startling, however, is the thought that the accuracy of many of these reports leaves something to be desired.

Since, as in the Star articles, the group usually selected as typical of and inspiration for these right-wing groups is the John Birch Society (even though it is younger than some of the groups which are said to "follow the Birch party line"), I would like to make some statements about this group.

Although I am not a member of the John Birch Society, or any similar organization, (nor do I intend to join next week!), I have, during the last three years, read many of the monthly bulletins sent by the Society to its members and also familiarized myself with much of its recommended reading material.

In addition, I am well acquainted with several members of a nearby chapter of the Society, as well as with the Chapter Leader, who is also member of its national Council. Besides this, I have been present as a visitor at occasional meetings of the nearby local chapter.

Firsthand information, therefore, enables me to say that several of the charges and implications made in the local and national press are simply NOT TRUE.

A few of the widely circulated, although false, criticisms are:

- (1) That the JBS is a "hate group" similar to all groups based on racial and religious animosities.
- (2) That candidates for admission are required to give assent to a detailed list of charges regarding the leftist sympathies of prominent people, and that all the members unquestionably accept these charges as true.

(3) That all members of the JBS are expected to conscientiously exert themselves to ferret out secret Communist sympathizers in community organizations.

(4) That members are obliged faithfully to perform all assignments given them from above, without question.

As indicative of the erroneous nature of the preceding statements, please consider the following:

(1) In all the monthly bulletins, AMERICAN OPINION magazines, and books from the "approved list" which I have read, and in all my contacts with individual members of the JBS, I have not come upon one single word of criticism of Negroes, Catholics, Jews, or any minority group, nor have I encountered any approving mention of any organization's criticism of such people. In fact, members of these minorities, together with native-born white Protestants, belong to chapters of the JBS both in New England and elsewhere.

(2) Applicants for membership need affirm no "Credo," accept no "blacklist." Indeed, many current members do not regard as Communists any number of individuals whom the JBS is charged as calling such. In the bulletin for October, 1961, following the usual encouragement to recruit new members for the Society, the following words appeared: "As always . . . we repeat and emphasize that simply being anti-Communist . . . is not sufficient qualification for membership. We must have associated with us . . . only men and women of good will, good character, good conscience and religious ideals." Such, then, are the requirements for membership.

(3) The members of the JBS with whom I am personally acquainted are some of the kindest, most helpful and friendliest people on this earth. Far from being hot-headed, narrow-minded bigots who support only "reactionary" activities, they are also busy making costumes for school plays and actively helping with children's church and Bible School programs. What about P.T.A.'s?

Instead of hunting for Communists, these people are busy working on refreshments. None has ever been instructed to "poke around in Rotary Clubs" or any local organization "to expose secret pinkos," or to spy on his neighbor.

At any rate, very few activities on the local scene are recommended to members, and those local projects which are suggested in the monthly bulletin are never concerned with denunciations or elimi-

nations of any kind, but rather with assuring freedom of expression and accurate dissemination of information for the conservative point of view as well as others.

(4) The suggested activities in these monthly bulletins are by no means intended as orders from above. A quote from the December, 1961, bulletin, direct from the pen of Robert Welch, suffices: "It is most appropriate, in this closing bulletin of the year, for us to repeat once again our standing admonition: Never carry out any of our requests, nor do anything for the John Birch Society, that is contrary to your own judgment or conscience."

We hope that you will agree with most of the suggestions on our monthly agenda, and carry them out faithfully to the best of your ability, so that we all have the huge benefit and greatly increased effectiveness of concerted action. But if we ask anything of which your conscience does not approve, ignore it in your actions... and tell us about it if you wish.

Just remember that among any thousand of our members . . . there will be one thousand different views on some things, and at least one dissenting view on at thousand things. We do the best we can with this always in mind.

Does that sound like tyranny? Surely any organization hoping of accomplishing anything at all tries to direct and coordinate the activities of its members.

In closing, the following food for thought. Whatever one may think of the John Birch Society, one must admit that, of all those disturbed by its activities, the Communists have protested the most.

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Almost every issue of the paper, *The Worker*, during the last six months of 1961 contained an attack on the society somewhere in its pages. Also, let those who fear subversion from the right contrast the number of members of rightist organizations who are in positions of national influence with the number of members of leftist groups in such positions.

And, finally, let those who consider the whole idea of an internal danger from Communism to be ridiculous ponder these words of FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover: "It is appalling that some members of our society continue to deplore and criticize those who stress the Communist danger. What these misguided 'authorities' fail to realize is that the Communist Party, U.S.A., is an integral part of the international Communism."

"As the world-wide menace becomes more powerful, the various Communist Parties assume a more dangerous and sinister role in the countries in which they are entrenched. Public indifference to this threat is tantamount to national suicide."

Mrs. Arthur I. McRae  
204 Pond Street

## In Reply To Mrs. McRae

Note: All statements concerning the John Birch Society can be found in recent "Notebook" articles on "Subversion from the Right" can be easily documented with direct quotations from Mr. Robert Welch's three major works: "The Politician," "The John Birch Blue Book," and the Birch "White Book," which is composed largely of the society's monthly bulletins. A much easier way to get a handle on the Birch pathology, however, is to read Gene Grove's, "Inside the John Birch Society," which as the Star indicated in its review, is based almost exclusively on direct quotations from Birchist literature.

One important point: To deplore the totalitarian techniques of the Birchers is not to deride the dangers of internal Communist subversion as "ridiculous." This danger exists, but the Star is convinced that an alert F.B.I., Congress, Executive, and Judicial system have successfully checked this subversion. In fact the defeat and withdrawal of both American Communists and Socialists in the face of the success of the American economy are among the outstanding and dramatic facts of recent American history.

### NEITHER EXTREME

We cannot make this point too clearly or too often: The Star does not believe that in order to fight the tyranny of the Left, we have to embrace an equally obnoxious and equally un-American tyranny of the Right. Totalitarianism of whatever hue is inimical to the American system of Constitutional law and liberty. Hitler, after all, was stridently anti-Communist. But what Hitler was for was at least as toxic as what he was against, and millions of American boys died because it was.

The Star is convinced that if the objectives of the Birchers and related Right Wing extremists were realized, America would find its liberties destroyed in a totalitarian state in which all dissent against official viewpoints would be equated with disloyalty, and all reform equated with Communism.

Nor can the Star easily accept such ugly and libellous Birch Society charges as its insistence that President Dwight D. Eisenhower was "a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy" and knowingly served this cause all his adult life. Such charges represent an alarming imbalance and hysteria which, if they are ever permitted to govern American life would mean the end of our Republic.

Anyone who fails to deal with

the Birch Society in terms of such charges is simply not dealing with its ugly and subversive realities. No apologetics, no attempt to picture the Birch Society as a sane and loyal anti-Communist group can obscure the fact that it has made and continues to make such charges every day.

### HOOVER IN WARNING

Our correspondent invokes John Edgar Hoover, director of the F.B.I., to support her view.

We, too, would like to quote Mr. Hoover, on page 290 of the paperback edition of his too-little-read "Masters of Deceit," which deals with the Communist conspiracy.

On page 290 of this book, Mr. Hoover says: "As we have seen, identifying Communists is not easy. They are trained in deceit and trickery and use every form of camouflage and dishonesty to advance their cause. For this reason, we must be absolutely certain that our fight is waged with full regard for the historic liberties of this great nation. This is the fundamental premise of any attack against Communism."

"Too often," J. Edgar Hoover adds, "I have seen such cases where loyal and patriotic, but misguided Americans, ave thought they were fighting Communism by slapping the label of 'Red' or 'Communist' on anyone who happened to be different from them, or, to have ideas with which they did not agree. Smears, character assassinations, and the scattering of irresponsible charges have no place in this nation. They create divisions, suspicions, and distrust among loyal Americans . . . just what the Communists want . . . and hinder rather than aid the fight against Communism."

(P.W.S.)

# notebook

## SUBVERSION FROM THE RIGHT

Part One — The Birchers

By WILSON SULLIVAN

"It costs only \$1,000 for a lifetime membership in the John Birch Society, or \$24 a year. That is, if they'll let you in."

There are certain little qualifications for admission. You've got to believe, for example, that Dwight Eisenhower is "a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy," and that Dulles was, too. You've got to see Chief Justice Earl Warren as an ill-disguised pinko trying to realize Abraham Lincoln's ambition to destroy the Constitution, and Nelson Rockefeller and Henry Cabot Lodge as servants of the Kremlin. It also helps if you view social security as a Marxist plot and agree with Birch chieftain Welch that the late U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold was "one of the most contemptible agents of the Kremlin ever to be supported by the American taxpayer." In short, you've got to believe that everyone but the Birchers is either hell-bent for Communist tyranny, or just stupid.

Founded in late 1958 by ex-candy man Robert H. Welch, Jr., the 28-30,000-member Birch Society is headquartered in Belmont, where a staff of 41 plus a roving elite of coordinators land a yearly payroll of well over one-half million dollars. The Birchers spend a cool \$16,000 per month on postage to pitch their message to the ignorant world. And despite actual exposure, proper ridicule, and denunciation from leading American statesmen and clergymen, including former President Eisenhower, Mr. Nixon, and Atty. Gen. Kennedy the Birchers continue their reckless dance with national security and sanity.

What do the Birchers believe? How are they organized? What do they hope to do? Reliable answers to these questions are provided by journalist Gene Grove in the Gold Medal paperback, "Inside the John Birch Society," based almost entirely on excerpts from Mr. Welch's publications.

(1) What They Believe: Birchers are persuaded that the real danger to America does not come from Russia, Moscow wouldn't dare attack us. Their major military preparation, therefore, as a Red plot to make us broke. Our real enemy, they say, is our government. For example, Ike, Bossed by Brother Milton, is "party superior," they insist, Ike is guilty of "knowingly accepting and abiding by Communist orders, and consciously serving the Communist conspiracy for all his adult life." Welch says that while F.D.R. served Communist causes unwittingly and Truman wittingly, Ike was the first actual Communist to be President.

For Welch and the Birchers, even J. Edgar Hoover is falling down on his job by permitting 30 active Red spy rings in the U.S. Birchers view such reforms as the minimum wage law and social security as Red plots to ease us into a police state. They see foreign aid as another Red trick to make us go

broke, and the U.N. as a hoax to establish a Red world government. They insist that our Protestant clergy is riddled with Reds, corrupting ancient dogmas into a pink social gospel. The Communists, they say, control 50 per cent of the U.S.A. and most of the world, save for a few strongholds of liberty like Franco Spain and South Africa.

(2) How They Are Organized: The Birch Society, Welch says, must be subject to "completely authoritative control at all levels." It is, in short, a totalitarian structure in which orders from the top are executed uncritically by the members below. For Robert Welch, democracy is "merely a deceptive phrase... a perennial fraud." When reminded that his Society is organized along Leninist lines, Welch has indicated willingness "to draw on all successful human experience in organizational matters..."

(3) What They Hope To Do: Welch has said that given one million hard-core Birchers under his command, he would take more heroic action. Pending the Deliverance, however, Birchers pursue such objectives as impeaching Earl Warren; getting control of P.T.A.'s; withdrawing recognition of the U.S.S.R.; poking around in Rotary Clubs to expose secret pinkos; supporting Goldwater for President; fighting Nixon Republicanism; or backing Southern segregation as a bastion of state's rights. Their objective, of course, is to discredit all ideas but their own as overtly or covertly Red. Among their favorite techniques are trying to cast doubt on the patriotism of local clergymen; attempting to intimidate local librarians by implying or charging that their library holdings favor the "Red" point of view; or organizing local letter-to-the-editor campaigns in which they seek to identify all dissent as disloyal.

JAN 11 1964

Mass.

THE WINCHESTER STAR

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# notebook

## SUBVERSION FROM THE RIGHT

Part Two—*The Fringers*

By WILSON SULLIVAN

If the Birchers are the best publicized corps of our Radical Right, they are by no means lonely. The C.S. has some 1,000 Right Wing extremist groups, whose concerns range from the treasonous purchase of Soviet peat moss to the realization of Hitler's plan to kill all Jews. Well-financed by far-out industrialists, they exert influence not only in their own ranks and in Congress, but in a litany of hate published from sea to sea. In the tradition of the Ku Klux Klan, they rage alternately anti-Catholic, anti-Jewish, and anti-Negro, with one seasonal refinement. Their hatreds are now peddled under the banner of anti-Communism. Their technique, of course, is to invoke a legitimate cause to cloak evil, ones.

Following the Birch party line, the fellow-traveling right-wing fringers charge that negotiation is appeasement, that both the Catholic and Protestant clergy are riddled with Reds, that the income tax is a Marxist trick, and that the Vatican and/or Jewish merchants are taking over the world. Representative Fringers are:

(1) The American Nazi Party. Bossed by George Rockwell, this crowd is headquartered in Arlington, Va. In their guarded offices four candles burn before a bronze bust of Hitler, flanked by Nazi flags, and Old Glory. Between "Siege Heil!" these home-grown fascists defend Hitler's actions in World War I, publicize the slogan "This Time the World," and are persuaded that "Jewish traitors" are "gnawing away at the foundation of our White Christian American Republic."

(2) The Minutemen: Centered in Missouri, these boys say "poof" on the world of ideas, except when they plan to purge local textbooks for Red slants. Guns and secret guerrilla training are their answers to a difficult world. They're ready for the big Red invasion, 80... mortars poised against the H-bomb.

(3) Gerald L. K. Smith, Inc. In the "Cross and the Flag" (Box 209,408) and available halls, this professor Jew-hater blasts integration as the road to "Black man tyranny" and chides the Birchers' "soft-policing" failure, thus far, to fight openly what Smith says is a joint plot of New York and Moscow Jews to run the world.

(4) The Christian Anti-Communist Crusade: Ruled by Australian-born Fred Schwarz, this way-out band enlists Linda Darnell to help convince Americans that Bolshevik Ballet appearances in the U.S. are Red plots. Predicting a Kremlin takeover here in ten years, this group prefers no world to "one," invoking the name of Jesus to support preventive war. Comparable groups are the Rev. Billy Hargis' "Christian Crusade," "The National Indignation Convention" and "The National Education Program;" nice names, nasty business. All of these groups, in varying degrees, tend to unite in admiration for Mr. Barry Goldwater, without whom, Fulton Lewis, Jr., assures us, "the whole movement would slip back (sic) into the mud."

Analysts agree that Right Wing extremists are spawned or nourished by the frustrations of the Cold War. Baffled by events, they fall out with simple answers, easy slogans, and convenient scapegoats to explain away evils, thus evading their own guilt and responsibility. Sincere Americans join such groups to help save the nation, unaware that these very extremists endanger America as much as Communism does, by sowing disunity through fear, hate and suspicion. Dedicated to defeating the tyranny of the Left they embrace an equally tyrannical Right. Affirming their love of the Constitution, they help subvert the very liberties on which this Constitution rests. Showing scant faith in America's ability to compete with the U.S.S.R., the Birchers and Fringers pursue goals which, if realized, would turn our Republic into a totalitarian state.

The subversion of our Republic by Left Wing extremists is all too clear. The subversion from the Right is not so clear. Left tyranny, whether of the Left or Right, is still tyranny, still inimical to the American system. Birchers and Fringers and their more respectable spokesmen in Congress and in news media should be exposed no less than the Communists for the un-American subversives they are. Neither Communist nor Bircher has any place in a republic of laws. The victory of either group would mean the end of liberty and justice for anyone but their leaders. If we keep our wits about us, help free the world of the hunger and tyranny on which Communism feeds, and remain true to our own Revolution, there is little evidence that either the Birchers or the Communists will govern the land.

MAN 18-1962

## THE WINCHESTER STAR

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# THE WINCHESTER STAR



3 CHURCH STREET  
WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

PARKVIEW 9-0029 - 9-0364

28 January, 1962

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director, F.B.I.  
Washington, D.C.

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DATE 1/16/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/gwm

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am enclosing clips of my recent articles in The Winchester (Mass.) Star on "Subversion From the Right," which, of course, affect you directly. I cannot accept the Birchers' implication that through inefficiency you have permitted 30 active Red spy rings to operate in this country.

It seems to me that we are in a rather bad national fix when even you are charged with being "soft on Communism" in this sense, and Dwight Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles are called out and out Reds.

It seems to the Star that the Birchers and related Right Wing extremists like those indicated in our articles constitute as great a subversion of our Republic as the Communist conspiracy itself. We do not believe that Americans must embrace a totalitarianism of the Right in order to fight the totalitarianism of the Left.

We believe that one of the dramatic facts of recent American history is the retreat of both Communists and Socialists in the face of the overwhelming success of the American system. We also believe that an alert F.B.I., in cooperation with the three branches of our government, has the Communist subversion well in hand.

We want you to know, Mr. Hoover, that we have every confidence in you and extend to you every good wish for the future.

Sincerely yours,

Wilson Sullivan  
Wilson Sullivan  
Assistant Editor  
THE WINCHESTER STAR

100-32899-209

Enc. Please Note quote from "Masters of Deceit or Third  
end cause."

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February 2, 1962

Mr. Wilson Sullivan  
Assistant Editor  
The Winchester Star  
3 Church Street  
Winchester, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Your letter of January 28th, with enclosures, has been received, and I appreciate your consideration in bringing these items to my attention.

Thank you for your expression of confidence in me and in the work of the FBI. I hope our endeavors will continue to merit your support and approval. Enclosed is some literature on the general topic of communism which may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (5)

1 - Boston - Enclosures (4)

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# Republicans Seek To Divorce Welch

By JAMES RESTON

(New York Times News Service)

WASHINGTON—The Republican counter-attack against the violent spokesmen of the John Birch Society is finally beginning to make progress.

This counter-attack is being led by men long identified with anti-Communist and anti-statist causes within the Republican Party, who feel that Robert Welch, the founder of the John Birch Society, is tarnishing the conservative movement, betraying the cause he professes to serve, and gravely weakening the Republican Party.

For example the conservative weekly, National Review, asserts this week in a brilliant leading editorial: "Our opinion is that Robert Welch is damaging the cause of anti-communism. By the extravagance of his remarks he repels, rather than attracts, a great following."

## Distinction Drawn

Fulton Lewis, Jr., the conservative radio commentator, recently told an anti-Communist rally here that the John Birch Society was "silly" in waging a campaign to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren and urged his audience to draw a distinction between conservative leaders such as Senator Barry Goldwater and Birchers like Welch.

"You're not going to get anything more to the right than Barry Goldwater, believe me," Lewis told a conference called by the conservative Washington news-letter, Human Events.

Another prominent conservative, Russell Kirk, also said recently that Welch was a "likable, honest, courageous, energetic man" who nevertheless "by silliness and injustice of utterance" has become the "kiss of death" for any conservative enterprise.

More prominent leaders of the G.O.P. from former Presidents Eisenhower and former Vice Presidents Nixon to Rep-

ster Goldwater, have recently talked privately about this same problem, so a move is now afoot to disassociate Welch and his kind from the Republican party. As a general proposition, this is an argument that had better be left to the conservatives

themselves. But one aspect of it may deserve attention elsewhere. This is the tendency of some Democratic leaders, not to help isolate the Welchers, but to identify them as much as possible with the Republican party.

## But It's Not True

For example, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, John M. Bailey, recently said: "The Republicans are more and more taking their ideas from the reckless radicals of the far right and echoing the efforts of those extreme agitators to breed fear and suspicion in our society."

Much more of this kind of thing has been creeping into Democratic campaign oratory in the congressional districts, and it is obviously effective in scaring the independent vote into the Democratic column. The trouble with it is that it doesn't happen to be true.

The Democrats have a large enough conservative target to shoot at without going to the right of Goldwater. The chairman of the Republican National Committee, William E. Miller, has been going around the country arguing that President Ken-

edy should have ordered the wall knocked down in Berlin. Barry Goldwater is dubious about the policies of collective security overseas and serial security at home. These are fair topics for honest debate, but "guilt by association" is no more attractive coming from the Democrats than it was in the past coming from the Republicans.

If there is a major political problem developing in America today it is that the balance of power is swinging so heavily against the Republican Party that the G.O.P. will not be able to maintain a vigorous opposition in Washington or in the nation.

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Mass.  
RECORD-AMERICAN, Boston, Mass.

Date: 2/7/6  
Edition: Late City  
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Editor: George E. Minot  
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**Bircher, Pastor Contest Seat On Wellesley**

By GARY KAYAHACHOIAN

WELLESLEY, Feb. 15.—The selectman's contest and a battle between Rev. William B. Rice and Col. Laurence E. Bunker, an avowed Birch Society member, for a seat on the Wellesley Board of Library Trustees, is expected to bring out a large turnout at the annual election on Mar. 5.

Zoning changes, parking facilities and school additions are expected to receive priority in the Mar. 26 annual town meeting, which has a warrant of 53 articles.

The lone vacancy on the

Board of Selectmen is being sought by Grant H. MacGillivray, executive superintendent of Dana Hall school here and Mrs. Jean G. Bowen, housewife and member of the Planning Board.

Rice is attempting to unseat incumbent Col. Bunker, who has held the post for two three-year terms. Bunker first ran for trustee at Rice's request when the latter stepped down from the position because of church activities.

Mrs. Henrietta L. Frost is

also seeking reelection as a trustee.

School committee member Mrs. Clara T. Breck is being challenged for reelection by Warren T. Himmlerger, a Natick school teacher.

**Seeks Aged Housing**

The Wellesley Committee for Senior Living wants to get zoning law and zoning map changes to construct apartments for retired persons on the Russell property at 608 Washington st., near Denton rd. Article 37 asks for rezoning from single residence to ad-

ministrative and professional use a parcel of land containing 10 acres and situated on the northerly side of Rte. 9, west of Weston rd., opposite Wadlesley Manor nursing home.

The voters are also being asked to buy two parcels of land on Waban st., for parking space.

Approval of recommended additions to elementary schools in the Warren and Fiske school districts is also sought. A report by the School Accommodations Committee for preliminary plans for additional

classroom facilities at the Senior High School is incorporated in another article supported by the School Committee.

In an attempt to alleviate a traffic bottleneck on Washington st., an article will urge the relocation of the present entrance and exit roadway to the Town Hall. The new access would be on Grove st.

Approval will be sought to

**Library Board**b6  
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**XXX BOSTON GLOBE**, Boston, Mass.  
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**BOSTON TRAVELER**, Boston, Mass.  
**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR**, Boston,  
Mass.  
**RECORD-AMERICAN**, Boston, Mass.

Date: 2/16/62

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Editor: Victor O. Jones

Title: John Birch Society

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Birchers' Head  
**At Brotherhood Week Luncheon**

Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, sat on the platform at a Brotherhood Week luncheon in Taunton yesterday and listened to sharp criticism of his rightist movement.

Standing only a few feet away from Mr. Welch, George C. Lodge, former assistant secretary of labor for international affairs and a candidate for the Republican nomination for U.S. senator from Massachusetts, told the gathering:

"He, who in the name of anti-communism, plays on the fears or doubts of people and who questions American leaders whose proof of integrity is beyond a doubt, is not worthy to be on a platform of brotherhood."

Mr. Welch, who has accused former President Eisenhower and Chief Justice Earl Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court of being conscious tools of the Communist conspiracy, later declined comment.

He declared in an earlier talk at the luncheon that the Birch Society is "a militant form of Americanism as opposed to the passive form that most Americans display."

Mr. Lodge was one of four persons awarded brotherhood scrolls. The other recipients, none of whom was present, were Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy, House Speaker John W. McCormick, D-Mass., and Angier Biddle Duke, State Department protocol chief.

Mr. McCormick, speaking by telephone from Washington, warned against "the opportunist who, under the guise of serving America, would abridge our civil rights, our liberties and privileges."

The brotherhood luncheon was sponsored by Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and civic groups. Rabbi Baruch Korff said Mr. Welch was invited because of a desire to bring together all aspects of brotherhood from ultra-conservative to ultra-lib-

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Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
 Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
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 Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

PROVIDENCE EVENING BULLETIN,  
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Date: 2/19/62

Edition: PM

Author:

Editor: EVELYN BROWN, III

Title:

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, Boston (100-32899)

✓ FROM : Director, FBI (62-104401)

SUBJECT: ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

DATE: February 28, 1962

ReBulet to Boston 1/31/62.

Boston and New York should advise whether Welch has contacted their office regarding Assistant Attorney General Yeagley's letter to Welch referred to in reBulet.

2 - New York

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DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

3/2/62

SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Rebulet to Boston dated 2/28/62.

Boston has not been contacted by WELCH regarding  
Assistant Attorney General Yeagley's letter to him.

2 - Bureau (RM)  
1 - New York (Info) (RM)  
1 - Boston  
PMG:msj  
(4)

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## Birch Society at the Polls

The mounting denunciations of the John Birch Society were the obvious factor in the defeat of Col. Laurence E. Bunker for re-election to the Wellesley board of library trustees. Although not all members of the John Birch Society insist on parading their membership, Col. Bunker always has made his position unequivocal. In his fight for re-election, he urged, however, that politics has no place in a non-partisan town election. His opponents averred that membership

in the John Birch Society is not politics so much as a philosophical determination about the American society and is unacceptable, as is the communism it purports to oppose. The voters backed their contention decisively.

No election is without the factor of personalities. Nevertheless, the Wellesley town election would indicate that membership in the John Birch Society is no asset at the polls hereabouts.

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~~RECOR~~ BOSTON HER ~~ED~~, Boston, Mass.  
~~RECOR~~ BOSTON TRA ~~LER~~, Boston, Mass.  
~~RECOR~~ CHRISTIAN HOME MONITOR, Boston,  
~~RECOR~~ MASS.  
~~RECOR~~ RECORD-AMERICAN, Boston, Mass.

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 Title: VICTOR O. JONES  
 JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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# Birch Officer Traits At Wellesley Polls

By ROBERT L. HASSETT

A national director of the John Birch Society, seeking re-election as a Wellesley library trustee, trailed a team of opponents today.

The contest — one of scores of ballot battles waged in more than 50 Massachusetts towns yesterday — captured the interest of much of the nation because of the conflict in basic political philosophies.

## Uphill Battle

Laurence E. Bunker, former aide-de-camp to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, was fighting an uphill battle against another incumbent, Mrs. Henrietta Frost, and the Rev. William B. Rice.

Four of Wellesley's seven precincts gave Mrs. Frost 1823 votes, and Rice, 1748, to 672 for the retired Army colonel.

(Continued on Page Twenty)

(Continued from First Page)

Mrs. Frost and Rice, minister of the Unitarian Church in Wellesley Hills, waged a combined campaign against Bunker to oust him from the post he has held six years, because of his association with the right-wing group.

Rain siphoned off voters in appreciable numbers in other towns holding annual elections. But it failed to dampen enthusiasm in 26 communities conducting town meetings.

## FISCAL OUTLAY

They convened to consider warrants burdened with articles calling for heavy fiscal outlays indicative of sharp rises in tax rates.

Balot referenda in many towns also dealt with financial questions asking voters to decide on municipal employee insurance, expanded school bus transportation, and new construction.

Irate town employees in Ipswich walked out of the town meeting after their request for a 4 per cent wage increases was defeated.

In Bridgewater, an increase of almost \$10 in taxes was forecast as six of 21 articles were completed. Included was approval of a \$972,276 school budget and salary increases totaling \$11,277.

## IN TOPSFIELD

Topsfield voters approved a \$963,435 budget in a three-hour session, acting on 41 articles including \$33,000 for architects' fees for a proposed regional junior high school in conjunction with Boxford and Middleton.

Full voters transferred \$100,000 from surplus funds to ease a projected tax increase after

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approval of a \$2,566,752 budget.

Concord town employees, with the exception of teachers, were granted a three per cent raise. The effect on the \$88.60 tax rate was estimated at \$1.30.

Hudson completed a 65-article warrant in three hours, and voted total appropriations of \$1,651,159, a budget \$91,000 in excess of that approved a year ago.

In Stoughton, voters acted upon 28 of 97 articles and appropriated \$3,278,331. Robert T. Smales, chairman of the finance committee, said if other recommendations are approved the tax rate will rise about 9¢.

For the first time in its history, Plainville elected a Democrat. Eugene F. Thayer turned the tick in a race for park commissioner, defeating Lloyd Jensen Jr., 572 to 417.

Town clerks throughout the commonwealth reported turnouts at the polls were generally running behind expectations. Counters fought the battle of the ballot through the night.

In Lexington, Ollis F. Brown Jr. and Levi G. Burnell were elected to the board of selectmen from a field of seven. Burnell topped his rivals with 2,492 votes. Brown received 2,390.

Defeated were J. Harper Blissell Jr., 1,839; William DeFelice, 458; Warren D. Smith, 183; Richard H. Soule, 1,361; and David D. Topmey, 1,042.

#### ANDOVER RECOUNT

A recount was ordered in the Andover School Committee race after Vincent P. Davey upset incumbent Mrs. Rita V. Buchen, 2,337 to 2,330. B. Allen Royland and incumbent William Steward were elected to the board of selectmen, defeating four other candidates.

Cohasset town meeting members concluded business which began Saturday, appropriating \$2,254,650 and disposing of a 48-article warrant. They voted \$900 to build a combined police station, and set by-law which prevented vector and treasurer

from holding simultaneous elective posts.

The swiftest town meeting action was in Rockport, which took less than five minutes to approve a record \$1,229,499 budget, then adjourned until tonight to consider 19 remaining articles of a 35-article warrant.

A general appropriation of \$416,895 was approved at the first session of the Rowley town meeting which acted upon 15 of the warrant's 39 articles.

Included in the appropriation was \$210,460 for the school budget and a salary for the town's first, full-time police officer.

#### GILL IS TYPICAL

Typical of the rain's effect on the voter turnout was Gill, where 186 of 600 eligible voters cast ballots, electing Edward Hawkins to a three-year term as a selectmen. He defeated Fred Bidwell, 84 votes to 73.

Eighteen of 73 articles were acted upon at the first session of the Whitman town meeting which appropriated \$1,706,534. Voters approved the transfer of \$40,000 from surplus funds in an attempt to bring about a reduction in taxes.

In Lynnfield, Mason J. Condon was elected to the board of selectmen, defeating Bayard D. Waring, 1,248 votes to 913. The town voted to accept legislation authorizing communities to insure town employees, 1,377 to 571.

Political Pul:

# Birchers Lack

By Cornelius Dalton

## Power Here

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**T**HE John Birch Society is not a factor in Massachusetts politics even though it was founded and is directed by a Massachusetts man and has its national headquarters in Belmont.

The influence of the Birchers and their leader, Robert H. W. Welch Jr., is much greater in other sections of the country than it is in this state where the organization was born.

In California, for example, the Republican convention amended an anti-Birch resolution proposed by former Vice President Nixon, adopting a watered-down version out of fear of alienating ultra-conservative support in this year's state election.

There has been relatively little local controversy about the Birch movement in Massachusetts communities — certainly nothing comparable to the com-

motion provoked in some other states.

The town election in Wellesley Monday was the first instance where the Birch issue dominated a political contest in this state. It was raised in the Brockton municipal election last fall but attracted only limited attention.

The candidates affiliated with the Birch Society were decisively defeated in both the Wellesley and the Brockton elections.

Robert Welch, the leader of the Birch movement, was active in the Massachusetts Republican

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BUNKER

party a decade or so ago. He ran for the GOP nomination for lieutenant governor in 1950, finishing second in a five-man primary contest.

A colorful, aggressive, energetic campaigner, Welch was regarded in 1950 as a man with a possible future in state politics. But he would have no chance of winning an election in Massachusetts today because of his extremist views.

The Wellesley election definitely established that affiliation with the Birch Society is a political handicap in this area.

Col. Laurence E. Bunker, one-time aide to Gen. MacArthur and a member of the Birch Society's national council, was ousted from the board of library trustees, on which he has served for seven years.

Elected to the two openings on the board were Mrs. Henrietta Frost, an incumbent, and the Rev. William B. Rice, minister

of the Wellesley Unitarian Church.

Mrs. Frost and Dr. Rice ran as a team and urged the voters to remove Col. Bunker from the library board solely because of his connection with the Birch Society.

They asserted that "the election to public office of a loyal supporter of and spokesman for Mr. Welch constitutes a threat at the local level." They expressed the opinion that the voters "have no alternative but to make a choice, not on personalities, but on one clear-cut issue."

Col. Bunker contended that his political views and his affiliation with the Birch Society were not "a proper issue" in a contest for library trustee, which he considers a non-political office. The only issue, he argued, was

whether a candidate was qualified for the position.

Although the library contest aroused wide interest, inside and outside Wellesley, there was no formal campaigning by either side. Activity was pretty much limited to letters to the local newspaper and some telephoning by supporters of the rival candidates.

The turnout for the town election was only average—about 35 percent. It was much smaller than last year, when referenda on fluoridation and teachers pay brought out a big vote.

But the effect of the Birch issue on Col. Bunker's candidacy was devastating. Mrs. Frost and Dr. Rice led by almost three to one, and Col. Bunker's vote dropped from 3,562 in 1959 to 1,286 this year.

## Exposure Wilts the Extremist John Birch Society

If the John Birch Society is less of a political force than it was, say, a year ago—as seems to be the case—that reassuring development must be attributed in large part to the power of disclosure.

The society crept upon the scene quietly. Much of its activity was hidden from the general view. It appears to have grown to considerable size and mobilized many thousands of supporters before the public at large had any notion of its existence.

But during the last year, many reporters have explored the society and exposed it to general view. In the press, in magazines and over television, the Birch Society has been examined, explained and discussed. Much of its mystery has been stripped away, and much of its earlier appeal appears to have withered away under the light of disclosure.

The result has been a massive revulsion against the Birch Society and against the curious platform on which it stands. Former President Eisenhower spoke against it. President Kennedy condemned it. J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI director, criticized it in a blistering attack on "self-appointed experts on Communism."

From a broad spectrum of American life came other condemnations. Will Maslow, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, spoke out against the Birchers. The Rev. Benjamin L. Masse, associate editor of the Roman Catholic weekly, *America*, said a Catholic could not belong to the Birch Society. The Michigan State GOP Central Committee approved a resolution denouncing the so-

ciety. Senator Goldwater said many good Americans belonged to the Birch Society, but expressed the hope that the society's leader, Robert H. W. Welch Jr., would resign.

Even the *National Review*, a journal of extreme political conservatism, opened up both barrels and blasted the Birch Society as an organization that deserved no place on the American scene.

In the most recent development, Richard M. Nixon has divorced himself completely from the Birchers, denounced the society's leadership, and asserted that no one could be both a loyal supporter of the Republican Party and a member of the Birch Society.

Mr. Nixon, now running as a candidate for governor of California, sought to put the California GOP squarely on record against

Boston American, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.  
Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.  
Christian Science Monitor, Boston, Mass.  
Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

### PROVINCIAL JOURNAL, Prov. R.I.

Date: 3/ /62  
Edition: AM  
Author:  
Editor: S VELLON BROWN, III  
Title:

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character:

Page: 17

Bufile:

Submitting Office: Boston

b6  
b7c

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/16/03 BY AUC (60290 BCE/DCG/jmw)

17-32899-219

JL JL

J

~~the society~~. He has been only partly successful. The California Republican Assembly, upon his urging, approved a resolution condemning the views of Mr. Welch, but refused to go another step and requested that all Republicans withdraw from the Birch Society because the society is "totally incompatible with the principles of the Republican Party."

Mr. Nixon's decision involves some political risks. The extremism of the Birchers seems to have caught hold more firmly in California than elsewhere. At least two members of the congressional delegation from that state are admitted members of the Birch Society, and the society appears to have considerable influence among the rank and file of the California GOP. By taking the fortuitous position that he did, Mr. Nixon runs the risk of losing the support of some California voters. The risk cannot be measured precisely, but it may be significant that when the California Republican Assembly came to endorsing a candidate for governor, it gave Mr. Nixon 263 votes and a surprisingly large 176 votes to his ultra-conservative opponent, Joseph C. Shell, who has been friendly to the Birchers' position.

But whatever the subsequent developments may be in California, it has become abundantly clear that the Birch Society has lost much of its glamor and much of its appeal in recent months. Disclosure always has been one of the stoutest weapons in democracy's arsenal, and disclosure must be credited in recent months with cutting the Birch Society down to size.



'It's Getting Tougher to Peddle  
My Pills'  
—Lewis, Milwaukee Journal

TO : SAC, BOSTON (100-33541)  
FROM : [redacted]  
SUBJECT: SM - C

DATE: 4/9/62

Date received 3/16/62	Received from (name or symbol number) [redacted]	Received by SA [redacted]
--------------------------	---	------------------------------

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Method of delivery (Check appropriate blocks)

In person  by telephone  by mail  orally  recording device  written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dictated \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Date [redacted]

Date(s) of activity

Transcribed \_\_\_\_\_

[redacted]

Authenticated  
by Informant \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of activity or material

[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Fill where original is located if not attached

[redacted]

Remarks:

In view of the sensitivity of the informant, the utmost care must be utilized to carefully paraphrase this information prior to dissemination in order to protect the identity of the informant who has furnished reliable information in the past.

Informant's report follows:

100-33541 [redacted]

100-24387 [redacted]

100-16156 [redacted]

100-33496 [redacted]

100-32899 [redacted]

97-

LMM:cm

(7)

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
AMERICAN NAZI PARTY

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DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

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DATE 11-16-03 BY ADW/60290 BCE/DCG/jmw

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"On [redacted]  
visited [redacted]

"The purpose was to [redacted]

[redacted] wanted to give more for it but the [redacted] told her that was all they wanted. Later [redacted] gave the [redacted] that [redacted] had admired at one time, one which they had regulated [redacted]

[redacted] had bought [redacted] opinion as to whether she had gotten a good buy. She said she paid \$65.00 for it. [redacted] assured her she had, and told her if she ever heard of [redacted] that for the price to be sure to let her know about it.

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b7C  
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[redacted] told about her plans for [redacted] Much of the evening was spent in discussing that sort of plans etc. etc. .

[redacted] expressed some fear of growing Fascism in the United States. Remarked about bombings of Synagogues in the U. S. The post cards that supposedly had been allowed through the U. S. Mails with Swastikas (Ph) and Nazi emblems etc on them. Also the growth of the John Birch Society, and drew a similarity with the development of Fascism in Germany and the rise to power of Hitler. She expressed fear for the Jewish people in this country in the years ahead and wondered why the Gov't didn't do something about it.

BS 100-33541

[redacted] said she couldn't agree with [redacted]. She thought that the John Birch Society had been nipped in the bud. And pointed out that already in Boston, [redacted] had been escorted out of the city. She felt that the average Am. citizen would resist any oppression against any minority group and in particular against the Jewish people.

b6  
b7c

"That in the case of [redacted] being escorted out of the city. This had been done by the authorities themselves. She doubted if the average citizen had even been aware that the leader of the Am. Nazi party had been to Boston, until after he'd been escorted out. And this was an indication of just how little effective they were or ever could be.

"Most of the evening was spent in non-political chit-chat."

All necessary action has been taken with respect to information furnished above.

Cover Sheet for Informant Report or Material  
FD 306 (3-21-58)

TO: SAC (100-33541)  
FROM: SA [redacted]  
RE: SM - C

4/13/62

b6  
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b7D

Date received 3/16/62 Received from [redacted] number) Received by Si [redacted]

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

in person  by telephone  by mail  orally  recording device  written by informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dictated \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Date of F \_\_\_\_\_

Transcribed \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of activity \_\_\_\_\_

Authenticated  
by informant \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Brief [redacted]

File [redacted] not attached

Remarks:

In view of the sensitivity of the informant the utmost care must be utilized to carefully paraphrase this information prior to dissemination in order to protect the identity of the informant who has furnished reliable information in the past.

Informant's report follows:

- 1- 100-33541  
1- [redacted]  
1- 100-24387 [redacted]  
1- 100-16156  
1- 100-33496 [redacted] ✓  
1- 100-32899 (JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)  
1- 157-32 (AMERICAN NAZI PARTY)  
LMM:bat  
(?)

b6  
b7D  
b7C

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

DATE 7/16/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/jmw

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1. 32899-321

2. 32899-321

Jmw

BS 100-33541

[redacted]  
[redacted] --- [redacted] visited  
[redacted]

[redacted] expressed concern of the existence of Lincoln Rockwell and his Nazi Party and also the John Birch Society.

[redacted] explained to [redacted] that there is much opposition to both of these groups in this country.

"Most of the evening was taken up of non-political conversation."

All necessary action has been taken with respect to information furnished above.

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b7C  
b7D

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, BOSTON (100-32800)  
(Attn: SA [redacted])

FROM : SA (A) ROBERT D. CORMIER

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

DATE: 5/31/62

b6  
b7c

On 5/16/62, [redacted]

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b7c

and who resides at [redacted] was contacted by the writer concerning an Antit ust matter. (BS 60-510).

During the conversation with [redacted] he advised that he has [redacted]

[redacted] He advised he is very cons ious of the duties of all citizens to be of service to the FBI in relation to security problems affecting the nation. In this connection he happens to have become closely accuaited with one [redacted]

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b7c

[redacted] who resides on [redacted] and who is employed [redacted] Ch rurg & Cairns Advertising Agency, Brookline, Mass. [redacted] ROBERT H. WELCH, the founder of the John Birch Soc ety. -He has been friendly with [redacted] for the past 3 or 4 y ears and their [redacted] They attend the same church, sing in the choir, etc. They have never di cussed the John Birch Society in their conversations, howev er, they exchange confidences with each other.

[redacted] stated that although he does not know whether or not the FBI is currently investigating the John Birch Society, that in the event we desire to do so at some future date [redacted]

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[redacted] FBI. He stated [redacted] Socie / if requested to do so by the FBI at some future date.

RDC:lc  
(1)

100-32800-224

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 31 1962	
FBI - BOSTON	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

REASON FOR UNCLASSIFICATION: b7c  
DATE 7/16/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/gmm

*[Handwritten signature: Landef]*

470 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts  
May 18, 1968

Mr. Isadore Zack  
New England Regional Office  
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith  
72 Franklin Street  
Boston 10, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Zack:

I wish to acknowledge your communication of May 15, 1968 providing an enclosure of an article appearing in the Berry, New Hampshire Star on April 19, 1968 stating in substance that a member of the Board of Library Trustees of Londonderry, New Hampshire had indicated that an agent of the FBI had given clearance to a series of books, as well as clearance to the John Birch Society.

This matter has been examined and contact had with Mrs. Dorothy Holton, Londonderry, New Hampshire, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library and the person who made the statement referred to in the article above. Mrs. Holton states that she did contact a representative of the FBI at Nashua, New Hampshire seeking approval of the book list referred to, as well as the John Birch Society and she was advised by that agent that the FBI did not approve or disapprove of books as such, nor did it provide any information with respect to the activities of organizations. Mrs. Holton states that she misunderstood the latter reference to imply that no indication was given to her that the books or the Society referred to were objectionable, that she had a right to assume that the opposite was true.

Mrs. Holton now states that this was an assumption on her part and that at no time did the representative of the FBI, in any way, give any approval to the book list or to the John Birch Society.

61-189

cc: 100- John Birch Society  
TFM:maw  
(3)

FILED

100-32899 223

Mrs. Holton has been requested to correct  
this impression on the official records with the  
Board of Selectmen and Library Trustees at Londonderry,  
New Hampshire and further to provide a statement to  
the Derry, New Hampshire Star of this action.

Sincerely,

L. L. Laughlin  
Special Agent in Charge

DIRECTOR, FBI

May 18, 1962

SAC, BOSTON (61-189)

**ANTI-DEFACTION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH  
INFORMATION CONCERNING**

The New England Regional Office of the above group, 72 Franklin Street, Boston 10, Massachusetts, through Mr. ISADORE ZACK, provided information appearing in the *Berry, New Hampshire Star* on 4/19/62 reflecting a meeting of the Board of Library Trustees and the Selectmen of Londonderry, New Hampshire April 9, 1962, at which time "a member of the Board of Library Trustees informed them an agent of the FBI had reviewed the book list and given his approval, as well as clearance to the John Birch Society."

The book list related to alleged anti-communist books donated to the library by the John Birch Society and accepted by the trustees during November, 1961.

MRS. DOROTHY HOLTON, an English teacher at the Alvirne High School, Hudson, N. H., and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Leach Public Library, Londonderry, advised that she was the person who had made the statement referred to.

She stated that several months ago she contacted the Nashua, N. H. Resident Agent and talked to SA PHILIP J. McCARTHY, at which time she read the list of books which had been made available by the John Birch Society to SA McCarthy and inquired as to whether or not these books were acceptable and also whether they should be received from the John Birch Society. She was informed at that time by SA McCarthy that the FBI made no recommendation regarding publications, groups, organizations or individuals and that our failure to make any such comment should not be assumed by her either affirmatively or negatively with regard to the books or the John Birch Society.

Upon reinterview 5/16/62 by SAC [redacted] and DONALD J. SCOTT, MRS. HOLTON asserted that at no time did SA McCarthy advise her that the FBI approved or disapproved of the books or the John Birch Society. She stated she assumed the absence of any rejection of the book list or

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2-Bureau  
2-Boston (61-189 and 100-John Birch Soc.)  
TTR:mcn  
(4)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

7/17/03

AUC 60290 Bce/bcg/jmwu

the Society by the FBI was sufficient for her to infer that there was nothing objectionable in the acceptance of the books by the library trustees. She stated this was an assumption and inference which she established herself and which she now regrets, having been again advised that the Bureau does not make any recommendations either favorably or otherwise with respect to such matters.

This matter was also discussed with Mr. HOWARD SHEPARD, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Londonderry, N. H., as the statement was made at a joint meeting of the Library Trustees and the full Board of Selectmen. Mr. SHEPARD has been advised with respect to the position of the Bureau as set forth above. He stated that he, at no time, believed that the FBI had endorsed either the books or the John Birch Society and that he will assure that the records of the Selectmen at their next meeting reflect the true position. MRS. HOLTON also indicated that the next meeting of the Board of Library Trustees would also reflect the position of the Bureau and that she will arrange for the Berry, N. H. Star to publish a statement by herself correcting the false impressions set forth in the 4/19/68 item.

The Bureau will be advised of the action taken.

Mr. EDWARD ZACK of the Anti-Defamation League has been advised that the Bureau had at no time made any recommendations regarding the book list or the John Birch Society.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## *Memorandum*

TO : SAC, BOSTON ~~(SAC-B)~~

FROM : SA FRANCIS J. PIERONI

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

D .TE: 6/8/62

PATROLMAN  
WEYMOUTH, MASS. PD  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

166  
17C

On 5/17/62, [redacted] appeared at the Rockton, Mass. station, and stated recently in Weymouth, Mass. he made one [redacted] a patrolman with the Weymouth, Mass. PD in a restaurant in that town. He stated that [redacted] engaged him in conversation during which [redacted] attempted to interest [redacted] in an organization which [redacted] based on [redacted] comments, believed to be an anti-communist group, probably the John Birch Society.

166  
170

He stated that [redacted] was in uniform took [redacted] to his personal car which contained considerable literature. He attempted to give to [redacted] some of this literature but [redacted] declined to accept. According to [redacted] during his conversation, made numerous critical remarks concerning the present administration as well as the United States Supreme Court.

156

[redacted] stated that his only reason for making this information available was that he felt that it may be of some interest to the FBI.

FJP:ras  
CC 1 - 80-  
(Weymouth, Mass. PD)  
(?)

100-32899-226  
SEARCHED *[initials]* INDEXED *[initials]*  
SERIALIZED *[initials]* FILED *[initials]*  
JUN 1 1962  
FBI - PORTLAND

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

7/17/03 BY AVE 60290 BCE/DCG/ym 5 day dep

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-

DATE: 7-27-62

FROM : [REDACTED] (LIAISON)

b6  
b7cSUBJECT: [REDACTED]  
INFO CONC

By telephone 7-27-62 an individual gave his name as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said he had been approached this afternoon by [REDACTED] who lives somewhere in Weymouth and is on the Weymouth Police Department. He said [REDACTED] talked to him about Communist dictatorship and said he liked it, and explained the good and bad features of communism. He said nothing more took place but that [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] apparent liking of communism he believed he might be a Communist. He described [REDACTED] as:

b6  
b7c

Height	5'9-10"
Build	Heavy set
Age	Late 40's - early 50's
Race	Caucasian
Complex.	Dark
Glasses	Wears glasses

LHM

b6  
b7c

08-32899-226A

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DATE 7/17/03 BY AGC 60290 BCE/DCS/jmw

J

TO : SAC (100-18969)  
FROM: SA [redacted]  
RE : CP, [redacted]  
IS - C

DATE: 6/19/62

Date received 5/20/62 Received from (name or symbol number) [redacted]

Received by

SA [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

in person  by telephone  by mail  orally  recording device  written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Date

Dictated \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Date / Report [redacted]

Date ) of activity [redacted]

Transcribed \_\_\_\_\_

[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7D

Authenticated  
by Informant \_\_\_\_\_

File where original is located if not attached [redacted]

Remarks:

In view of the sensitivity of the informant the utmost care must be utilized to carefully paraphrase this information prior to dissemination in order to protect the identity of the informant who has furnished reliable information in the past.

Informant's report follows:

1-New York (100-56579)(PHIL BART)(RM) 100-33541 [redacted]  
25-Boston 100-33496 [redacted]  
100-18960 100-34559 (TURN TOWARD PEACE)  
[redacted] 100-547 [redacted]  
100-24914 (PHIL BART) 100-20779 (CP-ORGANIZATION)  
100-5431 [redacted] 100-16191 (CP - FUNDS)  
100-34316 (CITIZENS COMM. FOR 100-16410 (CP-POLITICAL ACTIVITIES)  
CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES) 100-20781 (CP-YOUTH MATTERS)  
100-16336 [redacted] 100-18169 (CP-PAMPHLETS &  
100-19158 [redacted] PUBLICATIONS)  
100-15973 [redacted]  
100-313 [redacted]  
100-32392 (GREATER BOSTON COMM.  
FOR A SANE NUCLEAR POLICY)  
100-21645 [redacted]  
100-32899 [redacted]  
100-26659 [redacted]  
100-28338 [redacted]  
100-16156 [redacted]  
100-8099 [redacted]

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LMM:po'b  
(26)

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DATE 7-12-03 BY ANC 60290 BC&D/CGL/jpm

Block Stamp

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Jmm

BS 100-18969

"On [redacted] there was a meeting  
of the [redacted] Communist Party held  
at the [redacted]

b6  
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b7D

"Those attending were as follows: [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] gave a short report on the D. C. meeting  
which was held on Sun. April 29, 1962.

[redacted] said that Phil Bart had attended this meeting.  
There had been some discussion held on and about the recent  
peace march which ended in a rally held on the Boston Common.  
There had been a very good attendance at this rally. Also  
several people had participated in the march. [redacted]  
Hughes an independent candidate for the U. S. Senate had spoken.  
He was running as a 'peace' candidate.

[redacted] said it was the consensus of those present at  
the D. C. that the 'party' should back any 'Peace' candidate.

b6  
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[redacted] said they had discussed the recent demonstrations  
for peace at Geneva. He said it was interesting because for  
the first time there were more people from the U. S. participating  
in the peace demonstrations at Geneva than there were demonstrators  
from other countries.

"Usually it was the other way around with the U. S.  
greatly outnumbered by other countries. No one seemed to know  
why this was so. Maybe there were more students there this  
time???

[redacted] said someone in Boston was going to see [redacted]  
[redacted] and try to get them to use their writing ability in  
the cause for defense.

[redacted] said Phil Bart & the D. C. had discussed the  
fact that the party members were getting older and that the  
party would try to activate about 200 youth in the near future.

"Bart had told the D. C. that the party expected to  
publish an article on the elections soon. He wasn't sure  
if it would be in pamphlet form or if it would be published  
in the P. A.

BS 100-18969

[redacted] asked [redacted] to report on the recent peace march in which [redacted] participated.

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[redacted] said that it had been a good march. That at one time a few truck loads of the ultra-right had attempted to heckle the marchers. The police had sent them on their way. He said the marchers had been treated very well by the police all along the way.

b6  
b7C

[redacted] reported that she had attended the rally with [redacted] and said that there had been a good attendance.

"She said she hadn't seen any party people she knew there. There were people she recognized from Sage and Turn Towards peace, and many students. She said there was some heckling from a few Birchites.

"She said Proff. Hughes did a very good job speaking. She said also there had been two Japanese girls who spoke through interpreters. They had told of the horrible devastation in Japan due to the Atomic Bombs.

"We discussed whether we should participate in the Hughes Campaign and after some discussion decided that we should.

[redacted] didn't think [redacted] should as they were active in the Democrat Party in their town.

b6  
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"I think [redacted] would like to activate [redacted] into the Hughes Campaign. But [redacted] agreed with [redacted] that anyone in the Democratic Party should stay put.

[redacted] said a [redacted] had called her about working in Hughes Campaign. He'd said he understood she'd work for him [redacted] wondered how he'd gotten her name. She thought before anyone gave him her name it should have been discussed with her. She had refused him.

b6  
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"Finally we decided [redacted] should contact the Hughes office and find out if there was anyone in the [redacted] area working on Hughes Campaign. If there was [redacted] could offer his services - or offer to help them line up someone.

BS 100-18969

[redacted] suggested we should all think of potential subscribers to the Worker so we could increase the number of Workers sold.

b6  
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[redacted] reported that [redacted] was arranging a defense meeting for Tues. May 8. The place for it to be held wasn't definite - but as soon as it was we would be notified. [redacted] was expected to turn in \$100.00 at this meeting for defense.

[redacted] said she had \$38.00 to turn in & would put another \$10.00 with it.

[redacted] was asked to see [redacted]  
and ask them for a donation.

b6  
b7C

[redacted] said he'd see a few people.

[redacted] said she'd try to give more.

"We discussed the party we'd planned some time back with [redacted] said [redacted] agreed to do something after passover was over. EISIE was instructed to see [redacted] and pin her down on a definite date for a party at [redacted] house.  
[redacted] agreed to do this."

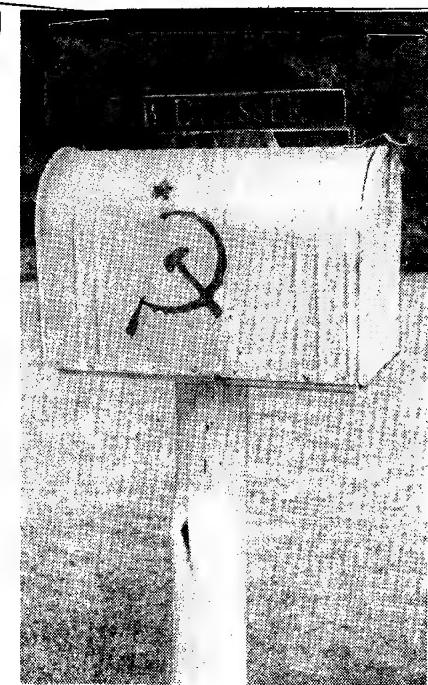
b6  
b7C

All necessary action has been taken with respect to information furnished above.

FD-350 (4-3-62)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



'It may be a boyish prank,' said Robert B. Dresser of 525 Cole Ave., Providence, last night about a hammer and sickle and a star painted in red paint on the sides of the mail box at his summer home in Sheldonville (Wrentham), Mass. Mr. Dresser, who is a leading John Birch Society member in Rhode Island, added, 'Everybody ought to know who the real Communists are.' Wrentham police, who have received several complaints from Mr. Dresser, said they have not yet found the culprit.

Journal-Bulletin

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city & state)

BOSTON Globe, Boston  
Mass.

BOSTON HERALD,  
Boston, Mass.

BOSTON TRAVELER,  
Boston, Mass.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE  
MONITOR, Boston,  
Mass.

RECORD-AMERICAN,  
Boston, Mass.

XX PROVIDENCE JOURNAL  
Prov.R.I. pg 24

Date: 7/20/62

Edition: AM

Author: SEVELLON BROWN, III

Editor:

Title:

ROBERT B. DRESSER

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BOSTON

100-32899-228

b6

b7C

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 23 1962	
FBI - BOSTON	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/17/03 BY AUC 46290 BCE/DCG/jmw

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

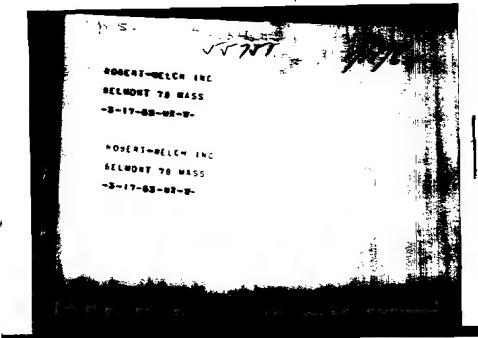
MEMORANDUM

TO: SAC, BOSTON

DATE: 13 AUG 1962

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (97-169)

SUBJECT:



b7D

SM - C

On 7/20/62 [redacted] a source who has furnished  
reliable information in the past [redacted]  
[redacted] "The  
Worker", 23 West 26th Street, New York City, an East Coast  
Communist newspaper.

Attached is a photograph of the name and address of  
a subscriber.

An explanation of the symbols appearing under the  
name and address is set forth on the reverse side of this  
memorandum.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

RGO:gmm

00-38277-229

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 17 1962	
FBI - BOSTON	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/17/03 BY AUC 6029Q BCE/DCG/jmw

## SYMBOLS

The last line of the subscribers stencilled name and address indicates:

1. Date of expiration
2. Length of subscription
3. New-straight renewal or old rereval
4. Name of paper
5. Whether direct or through an agent

\*\*\*\*\*

To determine length of sub we use / thru M (Omitting I)

A - 1 mo.	H - 8 mos.
B - 2 "	J - 9 "
C - 3 "	K - 10 "
D - 4 "	L - 11 "
E - 5 "	M - 1 year
F - 6 "	2M - 2 years
G - 7 "	

"F" (6 months) and "M" (1 year) are most often found on "The Worker" subs, also "K" (10 months).

For fractions of a month,  $\frac{1}{2}$  is used..

EXAMPLE: 5-11-59 M W refers to a Sunday "Worker" Sub for one year, expiring May 11, 1959.

5-11-59 $\frac{1}{2}$  W refers to a 6 mo.) "Worker" Sub which will run for an extra week over 6 months, and which expires May 11, 1959.

For subscriptions that are renewed within two weeks after expiration, the symbol "R" is used, to show that no copies are missed, e.g., 5-11-59 FR.

For subscriptions that were renewed after the date of expiration and the two weeks of grace, the symbol appears as RS, e.g., 5-11-59 RS which signifies that the subscription was renewed after expiration.

If the subscription is received through an agent of any kind, the symbol "A" is found at right of the plate, e.g., 5-11-59 M W A.

If "The Worker" subscription was a combination sub, the symbol D is included, e.g., 5-11-59 MW D

# Here Are the Men Who Direct Birch

Who are the men who determine the policies of the John Birch Society? Following is the roster of the Council. Starred names are members of the executive council.

Dr. N. E. Adamson, Jr., a Boston surgeon.

Thomas J. Anderson, editor and publisher of Farm and Ranch, Nashville, Tenn.

Hon. T. Coleman Andrews, former commissioner of internal revenue of the United States.

Hon. Spruille Braden, former ambassador, former assistant Secretary of State.

Col. Laurence E. Bonken, former personal aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

F. Gano Chance, president A. B. Chance Co., Centralia, Mo., former president Missouri Chamber of Commerce.

S. J. Conner, president of Conroth Co., Chicago.

Ralph E. Davis, president of General Plant Protection Corp., Los Angeles.

Dr. S. M. Draskovich, author and editor of a weekly Serbian newspaper in Chicago.

Rev. Richard Ginder, editor of The Priest, associate editor of Our Sunday Visitor, Catholic publications.

William J. Greda, president of Grede Foundries, Inc., Milwaukee. Former president of the National Association of Manufacturers and former head of international YMCA.

A. G. Heinsohn, Jr., president, Cherokee Mills, Sevierville, Tenn.

\*Fred C. Koch, president, Rock Island Oil and Refining Co., Wichita, Kan.

Alfred Kohlberg, charter member, now dead.

\*Dean Clarence Manion,



Andrews



Braden

former dean of Notre Dame Law School, founded Manion Forum, a radio program.

Frank E. Masland, Jr., president C. H. Masland and Sons, Carlisle, Pa.

N. Floyd McGowin, president, W. T. Smith Lumber Co., Chapman, Ala.

W. M. McMillan, president of Hussmann Refrigerator Co., St. Louis. Was, next to Welch, first member of the Society.

Dr. Revilo P. Oliver, professor of classical languages and literatures at the University of Illinois.

Cola G. Parker, former president of Kimberly-Clark Co., former president of NAM, a charter member, recently deceased.

Hon. M. T. Phelps, former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona.

Louis Rutherford, former president of Strelz, Inc., Evansville, Ind., and former president, Indiana State Chamber of Commerce.

\*Nelson Shepherd, president, Midwest-Beach Co., Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

\*James Simpson, Jr., a charter member, now dead.

Robert W. Studdard, president Wyman-Gordon Co., Worcester, Mass.; on board of directors of several large firms including First National Bank of Boston.

Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone, III, U.S.A.F. (Ret). Succeeded Gen. Claire Chennault as commander of 14th air force in China.

Paul H. Talbot, president, Paul H. Talbot Co., Beverly Hills, Calif., an insurance agency.

Robert H. Montgomery, Boston attorney and author of "Murder and The Myth."

10-32899-230

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 28 1962	
FBI — BOSTON	

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-32899)

FROM : SA ARTHUR F. HODGENS

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: 8/28/62

On August 18, 1962, [redacted]  
made available the attached clipping from the Detroit Free  
Press, issue of August 17, 1962. Recommended it be kept  
for info. has been marked for indexing.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

AFH:fha

✓ 1 - 100-32899  
1 - [redacted]

b7D

(2)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

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DATE 11/10/05 BY ANC 60290 BCE/DCG/jmw

100-32899-231

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AU	8/28/1962
BOSTON	

Jmw

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1E, The Alabama  
Journal,  
Montgomery, Ala.

Date: 8/23/62

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: JOHN BIRCH  
SOCIETYCharacter: INFORMATION  
or  
CONCERNING

Classification:

Submitting Office: MOBILE

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE ADMED  
DATE 01-30-2012 ID

DAW 117/03 BY AUC 60290 Bce/bcg/lyn

1032899-237

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 30 1962	
FBI - BOSTON	

Index

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Mobile (100-new)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: 8/27/62

Movement to Impeach EARL WARREN,  
Belmont 78 Mass.

Enclosed to the Bureau are two copies, and to Boston one copy, of clipping from the 8/23/62 issue of the "Alabama Journal," daily newspaper published at Montgomery, Ala., page 1B. The clippings are self-explanatory, and no additional information concerning these matters have been received by Mobile to date.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)(RM)(AM) Only, (1) one copy  
① - Boston (Enc. 1)(RM)(AM) received  
2 - Mobile  
WED-esp  
(5) (see serial 24)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

DATE 7/17/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/jmwj

100-32847-233

*JK*

*Jmwj*

## CURB THE SUPREME COURT

### Help Impeach EARL WARREN

— for information —  
Write to Movement to Impeach Earl Warren, Belmont, Mass.  
COUNTY & MONTGOMERY CHAPTERS OF JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

### BIRCHERS JOIN HIGHWAY HUCKSTERS

In addition to admonitions to buy a particular brand of beer or gasoline, drivers along U.S. 231 between Montgomery and Wetumpka encounter this roadside sign urging the reader

to "Curb the Supreme Court," and "Help Impeach Earl Warren." Sponsors are the Montgomery Chapters of the John Birch Society.—(Journal Photo by Paul Zukoski)

7/17/03 JWC 60290 BCE/DCG/ymw

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## ~~Shops Accuse Birch Group~~

A segment of the John Birch Society last night was accused of conducting a propaganda campaign against Greater Boston stores.

It was revealed that the right-wing group is attempting to convince shoppers that stores they patronize help Communism. John Birch members have labeled their campaign a "card party."

The actions of the group have been strongly criticized by store owners and legal spokesmen. Stores in Lexington, Brockton and Burlington have been targets of the propaganda movement.

The society, it was charged, is concealing literature in foodstuffs, condemning the purchase of Polish hams, Russian turfs and other goods.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

BOSTON GLOBE, Boston,  
Mass.

BOSTON HERALD  
Boston, Mass.

BOSTON TRAVELER,  
Boston, Mass.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE  
MONITOR, Boston, Mass.

5 RECORD-AMERICAN,  
Boston, Mass.

Date: 10-24-62  
Edition: Complete  
Author:  
Editor: Winfield Brooks  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Character:  
or  
Classification: 100-32899  
Submitting Office: BOSTON

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 7/17/03 BY AUC 100-290 BCE/bcg/jmw

CC: Bureau

100-32899-234

APR 15 1962  
FBI - BOSTON

J

Note: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Subject's name and aliases <i>John Birch Society</i>		Address of subject		Character of case	
Complainant [redacted]		Complainant's address and telephone number [redacted]		Complaint received Date 10/2/62 Time 9:30AM Personal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephonic	
Subject's Description	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Height	Hair	Build
	Age		Weight	Eyes	Complexion
Scars, marks or other data		ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 7/17/03 BY <u>AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/gwm</u>			

## Facts of complaint

Complainant states that during the past year he has received literature from the John Birch Society which he did not solicit. He advised he is not in agreement with that organization or its philosophy and wanted to know how to stop the literature from being sent to his home. He was advised the FBI had no control over such a situation. He then stated it was his feeling that a [redacted] [redacted]

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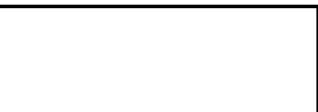
[redacted] Valley Paper Co., Holyoke, Massachusetts, and a resident of [redacted]  
[redacted] was the person who put his name on the mailing list of the John Birch Society. He said he felt the organization would undoubtedly be considered subversive and he did not want his name connected with such a group or to convey to any person or government organization that he was in any way sympathetic with its aims and doctrines. He stated he intended to write a letter to [redacted] requesting that [redacted] delete his name from the John Birch mailing list; and would send a copy of this letter to the FBI as evidence of his disinterest in the Society.

A copy of his letter dated 10/2/62 was received at the Springfield R/A on 10/3/62 and is attached hereto.

Action Recommended Close Case [redacted]	(Agent) [redacted]
Attachment (1)	

100-32899-235  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
OCT 10 1962  
FBI-BOSTON  
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October 2, 1962



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Dear Sir:

About two years ago I asked you if you would be willing to send me some information about the engine of which you were co-inventor. Through some possible misunderstanding I never received the information you offered but instead I have been receiving a considerable amount of literature of a semi-political nature.

Some of this definitely originated with you. However, much of it has come from other sources.

I have read enough of them to associate their origin with the John Birch Society. While I neither condemn or condone the organization, it has always been my philosophy not to associate myself in any way with such groups or 'isms.

I would, therefore, appreciate anything you can do to have my name removed from all mailing lists so associated.

I am sure your intentions were sincere and thank you for them but I am much more interested in your engine.

Sincerely

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DATE 2/17/03 BY AC 60290 BCE/bcg/ymw

100-32899-236

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**The Birchites**

I see by the papers that the John Birch Society again has received "dishonorable mention." Mr. Sevelon Brown, in his infinite wisdom and recorded in his column of Oct. 1, has notified the local Birchites that J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has directed a blast against them in his latest book, "A Study of Communism."

Nowhere in the passages quoted by Mr. Brown from Hoover's book can one find the names John Birch Society or Birchites. Therefore, the only conclusion to be drawn is that Mr. Brown thinks Mr. Hoover had the Birchites in mind or at least he hoped so.

I suppose that this kind of reporting and/or writing is called "Freedom of the Press." In my book, it is license of a shabby and irresponsible sort. It is the type of propaganda that is dividing us, while putting the blame on the Birch Society.

A goodly part of the quoted transcript from Mr. Hoover's book relates to amateurish irresponsible charges that certain individuals are Communists. I challenge Mr. Brown to name one local member of the Birch Society who has engaged in such a practice. In fact, I believe he would have great difficulty in naming any member of the society who has done so and been unable to prove his case.

The Birch Society is not engaged in looking for individual Communists. It is

fighting the Communist conspiracy itself. It realizes that the F.B.I. is an investigating agency and only has the power to arrest and to bear witness. It cannot prosecute. Therefore, prosecution is in the hands of elected officials or those appointed by them. The John Birch Society is interested in seeing that these officials are honest, qualified and doing a good job.

The beliefs, purpose, and aims of the John Birch Society are public property for all to see and to understand if they want to. They have been published in the Congressional Record of Tuesday, June 12, 1962. The head of the society, Robert Welch, has frequently invited various government agencies, including the F.B.I., to investigate the society. So far as I am aware, none has felt it necessary to do so. However, a private investigating company, Efficiency Research Bureau of California, has done so at the request of one of its clients, and the report gives the society a clean bill of health. It is suggested that Mr. Brown look at this report.

Instead of villifying the Birch Society, Mr. Brown could well occupy himself trying to find out why no Communists have been brought to trial under the federal law requiring them to register. Certainly the F.B.I. must have a long list of them. What has happened to the machinery of the Department of Justice? The fines at \$10,000 per day would go a long way toward paying the national debt.

The real punch line to Mr.

Brown's article, however, is his reference to Mr. Hoover's chapter on "Communist Propaganda." Mr. Hoover proclaims "Propaganda is the Communist's most powerful and effective weapon for influencing, conditioning and manipulating people." Among the "chief methods of dissemination in the United States" newspapers and magazines are pictured first.

Could there be any connection between this statement and the receipt by the Journal of a half-dozen free copies of Mr. Hoover's book?

Norman D. MacLeod  
Kenyon

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

N-40 Providence Sunday  
Journal,  
Prov., R.I.

Date: 10/14/62  
Edition: Sunday  
Author: Norman D. MacLeod  
Editor: Sevelon Brown, III  
Title:

JOHN BIRCH SOC.

Character:

or

Classification: 100  
Submitting Office: Boston

100-32899-237

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>BN</i>	FILED <i>BN</i>
OCT 16 1962	

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 7/17/03 BY AVC 6020 BCE/DCG/jmw

DGE, MASS., MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1962

**Lauds Gen. Walker*****Robert Welch Defends Birchers  
As Large Crowd Jeers, Laughs***

By BRUCE L. PAISNER

As a large, unruly audience jammed Jordan Hall to jeer and laugh, Robert Welch, the founder of the John Birch Society, last night defended his organization against "ridiculous, ridiculous, and rotten" charges of "secrecy and bigotry."

Welch claimed that many organizations besides the Birchers "refuse to publish their membership lists," and declared that "the left wing and liberal press was not aware of the Society" for 18 months after its founding because these papers have a "sloppy and distorted view of the American scene."

"We lean over backwards to avoid discrimination," Welch said. He decried charges that Birchers practice religious and racial bigotry as "the most rotten of all smears."

Welch defended former Gen. Edwin D. Walker, a professed Birchite, as a "patriotic, good-intentioned American" who is "innocent of any illegal action" at the University of Mississippi.

"Walker fell into a left-wing trap in Mississippi," Welch declared, "and false and vicious press reporting distorted the incident."

With considerable feeling, Welch repeated a charge that Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren "is attempting to break down our Constitution." Welch again called Warren an agent of the Communist conspiracy and declared that he "should be impeached." The audience hissed and jeered.

Welch declared the membership goal of the Society to be "one million fervid patriots and loyal citizens," and said that the Birchers continue to grow, despite vicious attacks.

"If we can grow until we have as many members as the communists, we can rout the communist conspiracy," Welch declared. "But the Communists have beguiled many good Americans into attacking the Birch Society," he warned.



ROBERT WELCH

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**BOSTON GLOBE**, Boston,  
Mass.**BOSTON HERALD**  
Boston, Mass.**BOSTON TRAVELER**,  
Boston, Mass.**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE  
MONITOR**, Boston, Mass.**RECORD-AMERICAN**,  
Boston, Mass.*"The Harvard Crimson"*

Date:

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

10/29/62

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: **BOSTON****100-32899-238**

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>BN</i>	FILED <i>BN</i>
OCT 31 1962	
FBI - BOSTON	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-32899)  
FROM : SA ~~Orville J. Hodges~~

DATE: 11-5-62

SUBJECT: Robert Welch

Misc-Info concerning

[Redacted]

by written

b6  
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b7D

report dated

[Redacted]

furnished

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

The speech gave info on

background & membership activity of John

Birch Society. Report filed in

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Info.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
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DATE 01-30-2012

100-32899-239

BN BN

CC

[Redacted]

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DATE 01-30-2012

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Welch Charges Publications Helping Reds

Robert Welch, president of the right-wing John Birch Society, charged last night that major national publications are propagandizing the Communist line to American readers.

"Many major publications, including Time and Look magazines and The New York Times," he said, "swallowed or followed the Communist line for Castro, and are following the Communist line against the John Birch Society."

**OVERFLOW CROWD**

He spoke before an overflow crowd at Ford Hall Forum in Jordan Hall. Extra seats were placed on the speaker's platform. Many were turned away at the door.

Defending his organization against "the constant barrage of distorted attacks by the press," the former Belmont candy manufacturer said that Communist influence in the nation's communication media has kept people from knowing the real aims of the Birch society.

Questioned about reports that members of the Society were boycotting stores selling commodities produced in Communist-bloc countries, despite the official sanctioning of this trade by the State Department, Welch replied:

"Of course our government is on Tito's side against our own industries which are competing against Communist produce—and has been for years—but this doesn't mean we have to put up with it."

"Buying goods produced by the Communists just helps to strengthen the grip that the Communist bosses have on the poor slaves who produce them."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/17/03 BY AUC 60290 BCE/DCG/jpmw

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

BOSTON GLOBE, Boston,  
Mass.

14 BOSTON HERALD  
Boston, Mass.

BOSTON TRAVELER,  
Boston, Mass.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE  
MONITOR, Boston, Mass.

RECORD-AMERICAN,  
Boston, Mass.

Date: 10-29-62  
Edition: Late City  
Author:  
Editor: George E. Minot  
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Character:  
or  
Classification: 100-32899  
Submitting Office: BOSTON

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b7C

CC: Bureau

10-32899-240  
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

*Rare Interview*

# Welch Says Red Influence Grows

By STANLEY JAMES

(Copyright 1962 by The Boston Herald)

The United States should cut off aid to India in its war with Red China, because Prime Minister Nehru and other Indian leaders are Communists themselves.



The Cuba crisis is a sham designed solely to build up the United Nations—which is entirely Communist-dominated—in world esteem.

And Communism is more than ever on the march in the United States.

These views were forcefully expressed yesterday by Robert Welch, controversial founder of the John Birch Society, in one of his rare interviews at the society's Belmont headquarters.

For more than an hour the articulate, energetic right-wing leader expounded his beliefs about a nation and world he sees as embroiled in a life-and-death struggle with Communism.

Sparing nobody, hard-bitten as ever, the John Birch Society's peppery boss found much to be indignant about but, paradoxically, also found some comfort in the recent elections.

## Rallying Point

The elections Welch said, were not nearly so disastrous to conservatism as it first appeared; in fact, the Birch Society has since become a new rallying point for conservatives.

Candidates favored by the Society did well in contests for legislature seats, and even in Congress "where wives are members or maybe these men are members themselves, and don't say so."

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/11/03 BY AUC 100-290-BCE/DCA/jymw

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— BOSTON GLOBE, Boston,  
Mass.

— BOSTON HERALD  
Boston, Mass.

— BOSTON TRAVELER,  
Boston, Mass.

— CHRISTIAN SCIENCE  
MONITOR, Boston, Mass.

— RECORD-AMERICAN,  
Boston, Mass.

Date: 11-22-62  
Edition: LATE CITY  
Author: STANLEY AMES  
Editor: GEORGE E. MINOT  
Title: WELCH SAYS RED  
INFLUENCE GROWS

Character:

or

Classification: **W**o

Submitting Office: BOSTON

100-32899-241

4

Welch denounced the treachery given Gen. Edwin Walker, Alger Hiss' TV appearance, and Atty. - Gen. Robert Kennedy's put-up-or-shut-up challenge to him to name the Communists he believes are in government.

He was optimistic about the Society's growth and appeared assured it would be well led "if the Communists arrange an accident" for him. As he talked to the quite whirr of a tape recorder in his booklined Concord street office, he ranged from his cigars ("I don't smoke Havanas") to the philosophy which guides him.

### What He Thinks

Here, in question - and - answer form, are the highlights of the interview:

**Q**—What do you think will happen to the power balance now that India and China are fighting?

**A**—We don't plunge into diagnosing these situations in a hurry. That's one reason we've been uncannily accurate. I see no reason to change our longstanding opinion, for instance, that there's no rift between Red China and Soviet Russia. It's as completely a fraud as the "rift" between Stalin and Tito. This situation furnishes a beautiful excuse for our government to arm India—itself controlled by a Communist government. India isn't Communist, but its government is, at the top. Nehru is one of the most useful agents of the Kremlin and has been for 35 years. This will enable our government to send terrific war materials to Nehru. I would be against it.

### Hiss' U.N. Founder'

**Q**—How do you feel about Khrushchev's backdown in the Cuba crisis?

**A**—The whole thing is a bunch of window dressing, for one purpose: to build up the United Nations and get everybody to think we have to depend on the UN to solve these problems. The UN is completely Communist-dominated. It was founded by Alger Hiss and his allies to be a "Communist Agency," and it has done so.

**Q**—You don't think the Russian evacuation of missiles is significant?

**A**—We're looking for the gimmick, the pretense. Why should we think things are suddenly what they look like. Why give any realism to Khrushchev's acts or words?

**Q**—Speaking of Alger Hiss, what did you think of his TV appearance?

**A**—Letting Hiss talk on TV was a disgrace. Richard Nixon attacked us (the Society) as you know. He alienated a lot of conservatives and a lot of people think he lost his race to be governor of California then.

Regardless, to let Hiss come on and give a political obituary of Nixon was horrible. We didn't do anything about this because we can't move that quickly unless it's an extreme emergency and it costs a lot of money, but plenty of people let themselves be heard without us.

### Blames Gerrymander

**Q**—What's your analysis of the election? In California three John Birchers — John Rousset, Edgar Hiesland and H. L. Richardson were defeated for Congress. In Texas Jack Seale, another Society member, lost.

**A**—They all lost in California but remember this: their districts were terribly gerrymandered. Rousset's was one of the worst cases in political history. In his old district he had 50 John Birch Society chapters; in his new district, five-eight on election day. Then the other side threw tremendous national resources and effort into the district. He lost by 6000 or 7000.

**Q**—You must remember too that they all ran better than other Republican state candidates in gen-

eral growth — slowed down last year and stayed slowed because of attacks against us. The

In Texas Seale lost by a narrow margin. All over the country we had a lot of people running for legislatures and Congressmen whose wives were members; and who were members themselves and didn't say so.

Overall, it wasn't bad. One thing surprised me: a terrific surge in interest in joining the Society, especially in districts where our people were defeated. The reasons are obvious — our people were working very hard for their candidates and conservative working with them saw how thorough they were. When they lost, the conservatives wanted to go on working. They were mad, disturbed, worried. A political party falls to pieces after an election. The John Birch Society didn't fall apart one damn bit. After one night's sleep they're back at work.

The conservatives needed a place to go, and education is a tremendous part of this job.

It isn't generally published, but the electorate follows its leaders be alerted to the dangers of the leftward drive. If they are, they will vote right and the electorate will go with them. The importance of continuing education is shown by this election.

I appeared on a Los Angeles radio program after the election and I mentioned then it appeared to be a swing to the left. As I hear more about what happened elsewhere, I'm not so sure it was.

### 'Communist Press'

**Q**—What's your membership growth picture?

**A**—The rate of growth — not the number of members but the

rate of growth — slowed down last year and stayed slowed because of attacks against us. The Moscow press sets the line for the Communist press in other nations and many articles accused us of being the "greatest Fascist organization in the world". Pravda and such publications early this year devoted more space to us than to any other non-governmental agency in 40 years' history. (I exclude Joe McCarthy because he was a Senator). And this line was followed through by the Communist press in the United States.

**Q**—Do you still approve of McCarthy?

**A**—We think McCarthy was doing a grand job. He exposed Communists and that's the way to stop them.

### Walker Case

**Q**—What's your opinion of Gen. Edwin Walker (an avowed Birchite who left the Army over his beliefs and was arrested for his activities during the riots over James Meredith at the University of Mississippi)?

**A**—One of the most horrible of all the things that happened was a plea by the prosecution for Gen. Walker in a criminal case. It's a violation of rights that go all the way back to King John.

Here you had a judge in Mississippi who didn't have Walker

before him issue an order at the government's plea to have Walker committed to a mental hospital prison in Missouri, and on the basis of a memo issued by a government psychiatrist 1000 miles away who never saw Walker. I would have fought it just as hard if it had happened to Eleanor Roosevelt, whose actions I never approved of.

I don't believe Walker committed any of the crimes of which he was charged. We have very good sources of information, members in Jackson and Oxford, Miss. We have taken it as our project to try to get this psychiatrist censured by medical groups.

Walker has been charged with crimes. He ought to be tried for

them. The government's doing all it can to keep him from being tried in Mississippi. I've said in our Bulletin that I disagree with much that Walker has done, as I've told him in person and by letter, but his rights should be protected. Walker is a member of the Society but he hasn't done anything in connection with the Society.

## Civil Rights

Q — What about civil rights in the Meredith case?

A — A Negro history professor at a Negro Mississippi college—his name was Cienmon King—tried to get into the University's summer session some years ago

and they threw him out on his ear. Neither the NAACP, nor the other do-gooders and bleeding hearts did anything to help him. They weren't ready to capitalize on the situation.

Q — Does George Rockwell, the American Nazi Party leader, have any connection with the John Birch Society?

A — We've had no correspondence with him nor any conversation with him. We want no part of him.

Q — It's been printed that your California branch has hired a press agent to alter the Society's

image. That isn't so. A paper distorted some off-the-cuff remarks (by a California leader). We have no wish to change our image. Our image is one of firmness, solidarity, dedication, determination. We have the finest men and women in America. If we develop softness around the corners, we'll be no good in the fight. Our political candidates said the Society's label was a terrific asset in the election.

## 'Card Parties'

Q — What's the Society's role in the 'card parties' in which cards saying "Buy Your Communist hams here" are slipped into displays of Polish hams?

A — We told our people to get in touch with the Miami organization that started it and Miami sent them lists of what to do. We do all we can first by persuasion that merchants help to stop importing goods made by slave labor. Then come the card parties. I don't know if it's a good idea or not.

The slave labor behind the Iron Curtain doesn't benefit from this export. The money goes to their Communist bosses. They can convert it to gold and bury it, or they can buy stock and control U. S. corporations with it; that's one channel into which Soviet money flows.

And this puts American labor out of jobs: 120 men laid off in a New England clothespin factory

a few weeks ago because of a factory that's gradually going out of business because of Czech competition.

Q — How do your views go over before a liberal audience, such as Ford Hall Forum?

A — I got a wonderful reception there. I do from all the liberal groups I address. Organizations looking for a pretense of balance between liberal and conservative speakers take me because I'm so controversial. It shows how broad-minded they are.

## 'Not a Democracy'

Q — Does anything seem to bother them about you?

A — They want to hear my views on why this is a republic, not a democracy, and why a democracy is just what we don't want.

Q — Where are your chapters doing best?

A — Texas and California are doing very well; we're doing well in Shreveport, La., Jackson, Miss., Amarillo, Tex., Stamford, Conn., Wichita, Kan., Nassau County, L. I., and Milwaukee. We're making headway in New England but it's still way behind.

Q — Have you heard the crack that the Society consists at least in part of little old ladies in tennis shoes?

— Our people had a lot of fun with that. In one California chapter where the membership is largely young married couples the women bought tennis shoes and a big "John Birch Society" stamp and wore the stamped shoes to market for a week.

## Mass. Election

Q — What did you think of the election in Massachusetts?

The voters rejected a referendum for a graduated state income tax that would have been a left-wing wedge and then the same people voted in a government that will do its utmost to bring in a progressive income tax. They voted against themselves. This shows the importance of education.

— What do you think of Barry Goldwater's apparently coming out in favor of Gov. Rockefeller of New York for the GOP Presidential nomination?

A — I haven't anything to say about Goldwater.

Q — This is considered a monolithic organization. What's been done about a successor if you're out of the picture some day?

A — Our Council has the complete right to appoint my successor if the Communists arrange an accident for me. We're gradually developing young men to take over. For a few years, the new leader would undoubtedly be a Council member.

Q — What's your opinion of the Communist influence in the United States today?

A — It's growing all the time.  
Atty-Gen. Robert Kennedy at-  
tacked me for my statement that  
while more than 98 per cent of  
federal employees are loyal, a few  
thousand in the right places can  
do terrific damage to the free  
world. Kennedy demanded that  
Welch name these people.

I said I hadn't the slightest idea  
who they were but if I'm walk-  
ing across a golf course with the  
club president and there are holes  
on every fairway, dug out by  
five irons, and the divots are ly-  
ing around and I say to the pres-  
ident "it's a beautiful course but  
members or caddies don't care  
to keep it that way," then he  
says "tell me who they are" —  
well, I don't know who they are.  
It's not my job to find out. I'm  
talking about the visible effects,  
and it's not my function to find  
out or tell who they are.

Q — Thank you, Mr. Welch.  
A — You're quite welcome.

TO : SAC (100-7908)  
FROM : SA [redacted]  
SUBJECT: CPUSA, [redacted]

11/29/62

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Date received Received from (name or symbol number) Received by  
10/18/62 SA [redacted]

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)  
 in person  by telephone  by mail  orally  recording device  written by informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:  
Date [redacted] Date [redacted]

Dictated By [redacted] SA [redacted] Date(s) of activity

Transcribed [redacted]

Authenticated by Informant [redacted] Date [redacted]

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Brief description of activity or material [redacted]  
File where original is located if not attached [redacted]

Remarks:

In view of the sensitivity of the informant the utmost care must be utilized to carefully paraphrase this information prior to dissemination in order to protect the identity of the informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past.

Informant's report follows:

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- 2 - Newark (100-19515) [redacted] (PM)  
(100-2254) [redacted]  
4 - New York (100-84994) (GUS HALL) (PM)  
(100-128255) (MORTIMER DANIEL RUBIN)  
(100- ) (GUS HALL-BENJAMIN DAVID DEFENSE COMMITTEE)  
(100- ) ("LA NUEVA VOZ")

48 - Boston (For Copies see Page 1A)

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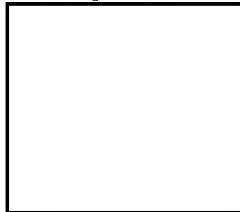
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- 1 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 157-32 - AMERICAN NAZI PARTY  
2 - 100-New - (FNU)  
1 - 100-24406 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-5990 - BOSTON JEWISH PEOPLE'S FORUM  
2 - 100-New - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-34570 - FORUM, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALITY CHURCH, SAUGUS  
1 - 100-19158 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-15973 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-11772 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-313 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-34861 - GUS HALL-BENJAMIN DAVIS DEFENSE COMMITTEE  
1 - 100-509 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-27123 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-23040 - GUS HALL  
1 - 100-568 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-16864 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-19864 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-21645 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-22939 - [REDACTED]  
2 - 100-New - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-32899 - JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
1 - 100-3002 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-1843 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-33541 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-16341 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-16160 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-926 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-1270 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-28032 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-547 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-26335 - [REDACTED]  
1 - 100-29844 - CP-PRINTING FACILITIES AVAILABLE  
1 - 100-20778 - CP-MEMBERSHIP  
1 - 100-16191 - CP-FUNDS  
1 - 100-17999 - CP-SECURITY MEASURES  
1 - 100-20785 - CP-INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
1 - 100-16410 - CP-POLITICAL ACTIVITIES  
1 - 100-19574 - CP-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES  
1 - 100-26893 - CP-STRATEGY IN INDUSTRY  
1 - 100-24111 - CP-NEGRO QUESTION  
1 - 100-20781 - CP-YOUTH MATTERS  
1 - 100-18169 - CP-PAMPHLETS & PUBLICATIONS  
1 - 100-21781 - TEAMSTERS

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"On [redacted] a meeting of [redacted]  
[redacted] Communist Party, USA, was held  
at [redacted]

Those attending were:



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"Before the meeting [redacted] went to [redacted]  
[redacted] in the morning. [redacted] showed [redacted] a  
letter he received from [redacted] asking him to pick  
[redacted] up at the meeting. She said in the  
letter, 'I hope [redacted] can make it.'

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"According to [redacted] was  
selected as the site of the meeting inasmuch as it was  
thought that as [redacted] was in New York he might be able to  
get back in time for at least part of the meeting if held  
[redacted]. He called [redacted] on the phone during the meeting  
and said he was on his way back, but did not arrive before  
the end of the meeting.

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"Agenda for the meeting was:

"1. Gus Hall speaking at the Forum  
in Dorchester

"2. Elections

"3. [redacted]

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"4. Youth

"5. Organization

"6. Mississippi

[redacted] asked that the Gus Hall meeting be discussed first as he had to leave at 12:30 to attend a meeting of the Jewish Forum Committee in the afternoon.

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[redacted] reported that in previous Forum Committee meetings they discussed the possibility of using the upper hall if more than two hundred people were expected to attend. The upper hall held approximately five hundred people. The District Committee decided to make an all-out effort to bring about the attendance of five hundred people to fill the upper hall.

[redacted] said that someone from the Forum Committee had already contacted Gus Hall to speak. [redacted] said that it was not imperative that the forum meeting at which Hall would speak be held at the Morton Hall Plaza, but that the Hotel Bradford would be suitable. [redacted] thought it should be held at the same place as the date and time could be set for the Hotel Bradford and then as a result of pressure the manager could a day or so before the meeting cancel out their reservation. It was pointed out that the rental of the Morton Hall Plaza was more than the Bradford, and [redacted] implied that the extra cost was because of the risk involved in allowing its rental for such a purpose.

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[redacted] brought out that another good reason for having it at Morton Hall Plaza was because Morton Hall Plaza was where the regular Jewish Forum meetings were held and that new people attending this Forum would be made acquainted with the place and this would make it easier for them to attend again.

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"The Forum Committee had originally planned to get out five hundred announcements on this first of a series of meetings of the Jewish People's Forum with Gus Hall speaking. The District Committee agreed to put out an additional thousand announcements which would make a total of 1,500 announcements, with five hundred to be gotten by the Party into colleges, such as Brandeis, Harvard and Boston University, and the remainder to be used for Party mailing and distribution. Those for colleges would be put into the hands of Party contacts at the colleges.

[redacted] asked [redacted] if [redacted] Moderator of the Forum, could get an ad announcing Hall's appearance at the forum in college papers, such as the 'Harvard Crimson,' and Bob replied that he could.

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"There was considerable discussion as to whether to have the forum meeting in the morning, afternoon or evening, and it was decided to have it in the afternoon.

"The meeting will be a week from Sunday, October 28.

[redacted] said on the evening of that day [redacted] is scheduled to speak at the Saugus Church forum which many of the [redacted] planned to attend. The fact that the Saugus Forum was being held the evening of October 28 was mentioned during the discussion as to the best time of day to hold the meeting of the Jewish Forum, and Anne remarked that we should not schedule the forum meeting at which Gus Hall was scheduled to speak to fit in with plans of the North Shore Section as they were really not a part of the prospective attendance at the meeting of the Jewish Forum, although she hoped the [redacted] people could attend both meetings.

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[redacted] had a clipping from a newspaper concerning a recent meeting at which a Party functionary spoke and which a Nazi group picketed. The people on the outside objected to the Nazis and knocked several to the ground. Those assaulted were then arrested for inciting a riot. She said similar picketing and trouble could occur at the meeting of the Jewish Forum and thought there should be a representation to meet Gus Hall on his arrival in Boston for protective purposes. She said that before the date of his arrival people would be asked to be present at the station or airport, whichever way he traveled, and greet Hall.

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"A printer was mentioned by the name of [redacted] (ph) who would do the printing on the announcements to be sent out on the Jewish Forum meeting. He has had a little sickness and [redacted] said he was an excitable person. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn wanted to see him because she had known him for a number of years but [redacted] advised her that she should not see him because it might excite him too much.

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[redacted] said that he would like to have [redacted] meet on Monday night with the Forum Committee. [redacted] asked, "Are they going to meet on Sunday afternoon and Monday too?" [redacted] said, "Yes." [redacted] then said she would meet with them Monday night to tie together plans for the meeting.

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"ELECTIONS"

[redacted] reported that at a Democratic City Committee meeting at Beverly, a number had stated they knew that many democrats would vote for Mr. Brooke, the candidate for Attorney General of Massachusetts. Others said that was true, that there were many democrats who will not vote for Mr. Kelly.

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[redacted] said that in the [redacted] area the Party is working for George O'Shea for Congress, present representative in the Massachusetts Legislature from the Lynn District, who has a good labor record. [redacted] said he had worked with O'Shea for a number of years. [redacted] said, 'That would have been George O'Shea's father that you worked with.' [redacted] said he believed that was correct.

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[redacted] said that it was interesting to note that Ted Kennedy had drawn so many votes in McCormack's home area, which showed the strength of the Kennedy machine. He said, however, Peabody had topped the vote of Ted Kennedy. [redacted] said one could not be guided by the number of votes Peabody received because he had no opposition, that Riley was not a strong opponent.

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[redacted] brought out that Mrs. Boardman, peace candidate, who ran for Representative, received a tremendous vote in the smaller communities -- old Yankee small communities, and that it was the larger cities that beat her. It was a close contest and she lost by only a small number of votes.

"HUGHES CAMPAIGN"

[redacted] said that the Hughes Committee at Hughes Headquarters was immature and made many mistakes. He had been instrumental in getting the Teamsters in his area to have Hughes speak and although Teamster members were present no one from Hughes' office showed up.

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[redacted] said that a Teamster in his area had spoken to him and asked him if he could arrange getting Hughes to speak before his Teamsters Local. [redacted] said he could not, that the person would first have to have the Teamsters agree to have Hughes and then contact the Hughes office himself.

[redacted] said it is very important that Hughes speak before Teamsters. He said the Teamsters are a big factor in the labor movement today and if a third political party becomes a reality that it will be because of the efforts of the Teamsters Union.

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[redacted] said that the two factions in the Democratic Party -- the Dixiecrats and the Liberals -- are living too close to each other and that we have to drive them further apart.

[redacted] said that at Holy Cross there is a big Hughes Committee [redacted] mentioned a person's name starting with 'A,' such as [redacted] who has been a Party member and who is now a teacher at Holy Cross. The brothers at Holy Cross do not object to this person because he was a member of the Communist Party, but their only objection is that he is Jewish. They were trying to bring out the fact that at various colleges there are liberal groups and it was not said that this person was tied in with the Hughes group at Holy Cross.

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[redacted] spoke again on Hughes. He said that the Republican Party has figured that Hughes will get about 125,000 votes. He said that he would be more than pleased if he got 75,000 votes.

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[redacted] said that there were indications that Professor Hughes will be a candidate in the future and he believes that Hughes Committee will remain as a permanent peace group.

"YOUTH"

"At a previous District Committee meeting [redacted] [redacted] were appointed to work on the Youth Program.

[redacted] said that a woman from New York was supposed to appear in Boston this weekend to work on Youth, but that he had called her and she was unable to make it this weekend but would try to make it next weekend. In the telephone conversation she said she had talked to [redacted] in New York. [redacted] said that because of the Gus Hall meeting that she possibly could tie two things together by working on Youth and at the same time helping to promote the Gus Hall meeting.

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"It was reported that there is a Marxist discussion group at Brandeis and some plans have been made to start a Marxist discussion group at Harvard.

[redacted] mentioned a person by the name of [redacted]  
[redacted] (ph), who works in Watertown and lives in [redacted]  
who has indicated a desire to work with college students.  
The impression was gained that the person had been a recent  
student.

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[redacted] mentioned using [redacted] in  
regard to the youth work. The name of [redacted] was  
also mentioned as a person to work with youth, also [redacted]

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[redacted] said he had attended a recent concert  
and tried to talk to [redacted] who is a student from  
the South Shore. He wanted to talk to him in regard to  
youth in the colleges but another person had started to  
talk to [redacted] at the time which prevented him from  
entering into any discussion. The other person was  
talking to [redacted] on the subject of the Soviet Union.  
[redacted] did not mention who [redacted] was other than he was from  
the South Shore.

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#### "ORGANIZATION"

"There was nothing discussed on Organization.  
It was decided to put that item off until the next meeting  
when the work of each section would be taken up.

#### "MISSISSIPPI"

[redacted] had requested the discussion on  
Mississippi. He was asked why he wanted that item on the  
agenda and he said that he felt that the Government was  
drawing troops out of the University of Mississippi too  
fast. He wondered what other members had to say on the  
subject. Those attending agreed that they were being taken  
out too fast. [redacted] said that President Kennedy  
consistently tries to say things that sound good but  
does nothing. He said the President was boxed into this  
situation and that when President Kennedy does act on  
situations such as this that he will back him 100%.

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"It was stated that initially the troops that  
were sent in were composed of both white and Negro, but

"later the Negro troops were segregated by means of their assignment to details, such as preparing food, which separated them from the white troops.

"While having coffee [redacted] wondered if we knew that the charges against [redacted] had been dropped. [redacted]  
[redacted] asked if she thought that would make any difference in the activities of [redacted] said that [redacted] was still a member of the Party and still paid dues, but she doubted whether that would cause him to be more active. She said [redacted] has his mind set on being a good artist and that he has the ability to be one.

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[redacted] mentioned that there is still \$1200 in the Reserve Fund. [redacted] said that could be a very small figure if a defense situation came up in the Boston area. She said that the Boston group has about \$500 and the Party has about the same. [redacted] said that was the \$1200 [redacted] was trying to get his hands on to start the book shop, which lasted about two months. [redacted] said that the store which had been rented for the book shop was still 'for rent.'

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[redacted] spoke about the attacks on British ships going into Cuba by the Anti-Castro Cubans and said the British Government will have to take a stand on that and protect their own ships.

"During the discussion on the Hughes Campaign someone said that the local Executive Board of the New England District of the Teamsters Union had a desire to meet with Professor Hughes.

"About twenty minutes before the meeting adjourned there was a knock on the door [redacted] answered and the fellow she spoke to said he was [redacted] told him that [redacted] was expected home soon, that she just received a call from [redacted] saying that he was on his way.

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[redacted] had a number of copies of Volume 1, Number 1, of 'LA NUEVA VOZ,' dated October 1, 1962, which she said she would leave with [redacted]. She thought she would write and tell them not to send her the paper in the future because they did not have Spanish people to give them to.

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[redacted] gave [redacted] approximately one hundred leaflets for the North Shore to be mailed out entitled, 'The Bill of Rights Endangered! Your Liberties at Stake,' self-described as 'The Story of Ten Americans Fighting to Preserve Freedom.' Under the caption 'What You Can Do,' the leaflet urged the following:

"Write President John F. Kennedy protesting against the unconstitutional McCarran proceedings.

"Write Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to halt all McCarran proceedings.

"Write your Senators and Congressmen to work for repeal of the McCarran Act.

"Write the newspapers telling them what you think.

"Tell us what you have done.

"And this is crucial: Send your contribution - cash or check or money order - to:

"THE GUS HALL-BENJAMIN J. DAVIS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

"Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Chairman  
James J. Tormey, Exec.-Sec.  
Cyril Philip, Treas.

"22 East 17th Street, Room 1225, New York 3, New York"

"Flyers put out by the Hughes for Senate Committee captioned 'We Face A Crisis,' 'Equality Now' and 'The Issue is Jobs' were also distributed at the meeting.

"It was announced that Hughes was scheduled to speak the evening of October 18, 1962, at the Unitarian-Universalist Forum at Saugus, but had another engagement. Because of this [redacted] was asked to speak at the Saugus Church forum on the subject of Cuba. She said she had not been to Cuba for a number of years but that she could speak on China and show slides.

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[redacted] is also appearing this coming Sunday at the Community Church, and sometime in the future at the Jewish Forum in Dorchester, to show slides and speak on China.

"It was mentioned during the meeting that Danny Rubin was no longer a writer for 'New Horizons,' a youth paper.

"It was decided to hold the next [redacted] meeting [redacted] looked at a booklet of engagements and found he was due to attend a concert on that date but because of the fact that the weekend previous to [redacted], it was felt it would have to be held on the [redacted]. Possible [redacted] could attend in the a.m. and leave in the afternoon to attend his concert, and in order to help [redacted] the meeting will be held in [redacted]

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"During the meeting [redacted] asked [redacted] if he noticed the article on Bob Goodwin in 'The Worker.' He said he had [redacted] asked if [redacted] objected to its being in 'The Worker' and [redacted] said she had not.

[redacted] said that at the recent meeting in [redacted] held as a homecoming welcoming party for [redacted] he had announced to the people attending that arrangements were being made to have Gus Hall speak at the opening Forum meeting in Dorchester. He said the applause was tremendous.

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[redacted] also said that he had an addressograph machine and felt it would be good if someone could type out stencils for the regular mailing lists of the Party. It would make mailing much easier. It was agreed that this could be done in the future but there was no time to do it before the mailing of the Hall announcements.

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"It was stated at the meeting that [redacted] would not be active for two or three more weeks because of his recent illness, believed to involve his heart.

"During the discussion on the Hughes Campaign [redacted] said that the Party had been lax in not getting a party person in the management or coordination of the campaign.

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[redacted] said that the Ford Hall Forum is having Welsh of the John Birch Society in the near future as a speaker and that Party Headquarters had written the Ford Hall Forum to again try to have Gus Hall speak at the Forum.

[redacted] said he would be bringing a group from his area and [redacted] said he would also be bringing a carload to the Hall meeting. Before the vote was taken to hold the meeting in the afternoon, [redacted] said he wanted to ask if as many of the regular forum attendants would attend in the afternoon as the morning. [redacted] said he felt as many would attend.

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"The meeting started at [redacted] adjourned about [redacted]. When the meeting broke up there was a man standing in the vacant lot across the street from [redacted] and another man, apparently working on his car. [redacted] did not like the looks of the situation and said she wished the meeting had been held at a different place since [redacted] was not there.

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b7C  
b7D

"While [redacted] were driving [redacted] to her house [redacted] spoke about having visited [redacted] relatives at [redacted]. She said [redacted] was also visiting there. She said that [redacted] was presently [redacted]  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C

The leaflet mentioned herein entitled "The Bill of Rights Endangered! Your Liberties at Stake" is being placed in the 1A section of CP - PAMPHLETS AND PUBLICATIONS, 100-18169.

The three flyers mentioned herein relating to the candidacy of H. STUART HUGHES are being placed in the 1A section of HUGHES' file 100-21645.

LEADS

It is recommended that investigation be initiated toward the further identification of [redacted] (FNU) [redacted]. It is noted that investigation of [redacted] should be limited to established sources at this time in view of his reported association with [redacted]. The informant stated [redacted] be alert to the possible additional development or information concerning these individuals.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC

DATE: 12-14-62

FROM : [REDACTED] (LIAISON)

b6  
b7c

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY,

AMERICAN NAZI PARTY

On 12-13-62 an individual came to this office and gave his name as [REDACTED] Division 15, (Charlestown), Boston Police Dept.

[REDACTED] said he is a member of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY and claimed he is very active in same.

b6  
b7c

[REDACTED] presented for retention by this office if desired, the attached news item captioned "BIRCHERS, NAZI PARTY COMBINE TO SELL BOOKS" - by JAMES F. DRONEY.

[REDACTED] said he and some other members of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY had been aware of the proposed bookstore and had intended to exclude participation in same by the AMERICAN NAZI PARTY, before this came about [REDACTED] appeared very much upset re the news item and association of the AMERICAN NAZI PARTY with the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY in connection with the bookstore.

A copy of attached item has already been designated for JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY; therefore the copy herewith is LHM designated for the file re AMERICAN NAZI PARTY.

① - 100-  
1 - 157-32\* (Attach. 1)

(JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)  
(AMER. NAZI PARTY)

100-33899-243

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 14 1962	
FBI - BOSTON	

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 01-30-2012

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/10/03 BY BUC 60290 BCE/bcg/jmw

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
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